BRAVE DAN

OSAMU TEZUKA

A Digital Manga Guild Publication

Digital Manga Guild presents

BRAVE DAN

Osamu Tezuka

Chapter 1: The Three Keys..... 007
Chapter 2: Kousetsukoku..... 081
Chapter 3: The Sanctuary's Protector..... 147
Postscript..... 252

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BRAVE DAN

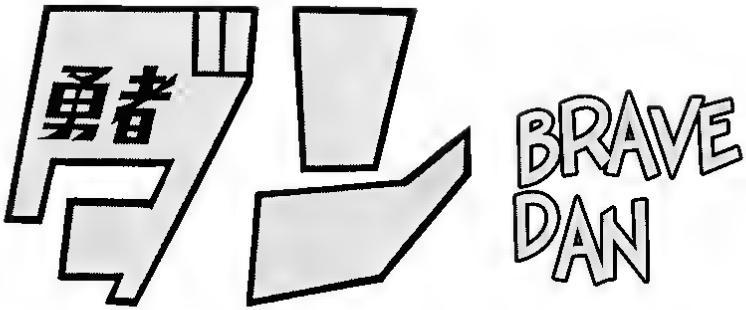
The Ainu child named Kotan was brought up together with the tiger cub Dan. One day, a strange old man gave Kotan a key saying that Kotan would eventually become a savior of the Ainu race. The treasures of the Ainu would be discovered when Kotan came in possession of three of such keys.

A mysterious man named Kosekkoku who is in posseion of the second key appears and takes the first away from Kotan who is injured. Dan who hopes to heal Kotan's injury takes the letter to a hot spring spe where the tiger cub himself had healed himself. A crow tells Dan that it was Dan's destiny to be killed by Kotan. Dan, who gives up hop of healing Kotan, takes him to the world of human beings.

Coincidentelly, the persons who saved Kotan were Prof. Hanamaru and his daughter Tanayo. The professor was in possession of the third key and come to Hokkaido in search of the Ainu's treasure trove. Kosekkoku combines forces with the bad man Zogel and discovers the treasure trove but Zogel, who wants to keep the treasure for himself, becomes Kotan's ally. Dan, Kotan and Kosekkoku goes to the treasure trove but are incarcerated by the robot who was guarding the treasure.

Dan alone manages to escape and calls for help but is an object of bullets fired by men who were searching for him because Dan had once killed a man and escaped from his cage while on a train.

Kotan, who was eventually saved by Prof. Hanamaru, shoots and kill Dan in order that the tiger may die an instant death. (Work of 1962).


勇者ダン
BRAVE
DAN

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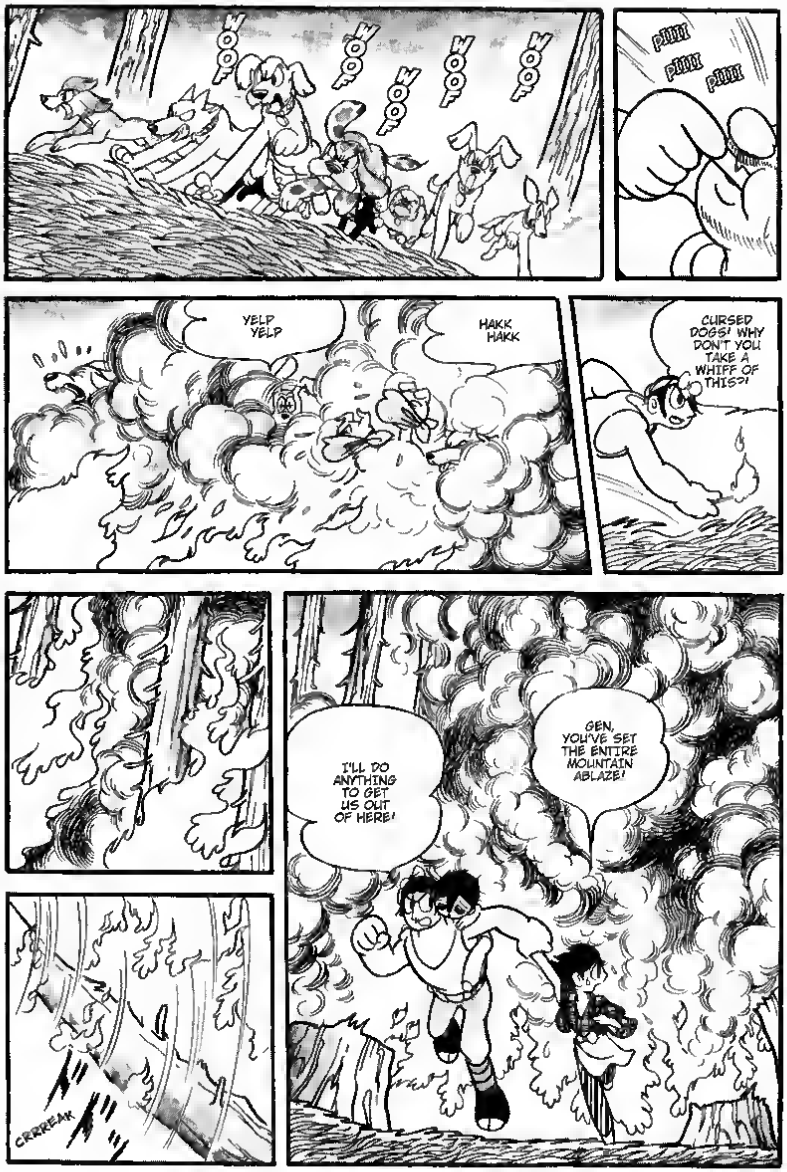
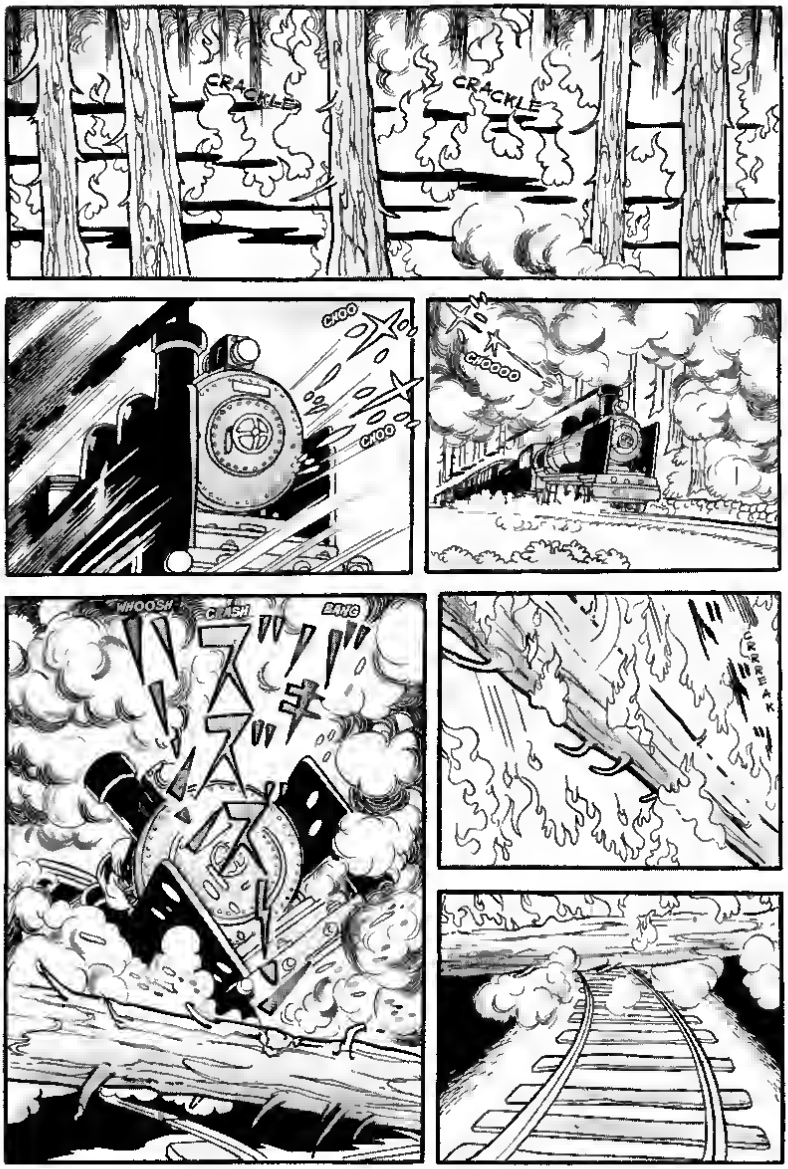
CHAPTER 1
THE THREE KEYS

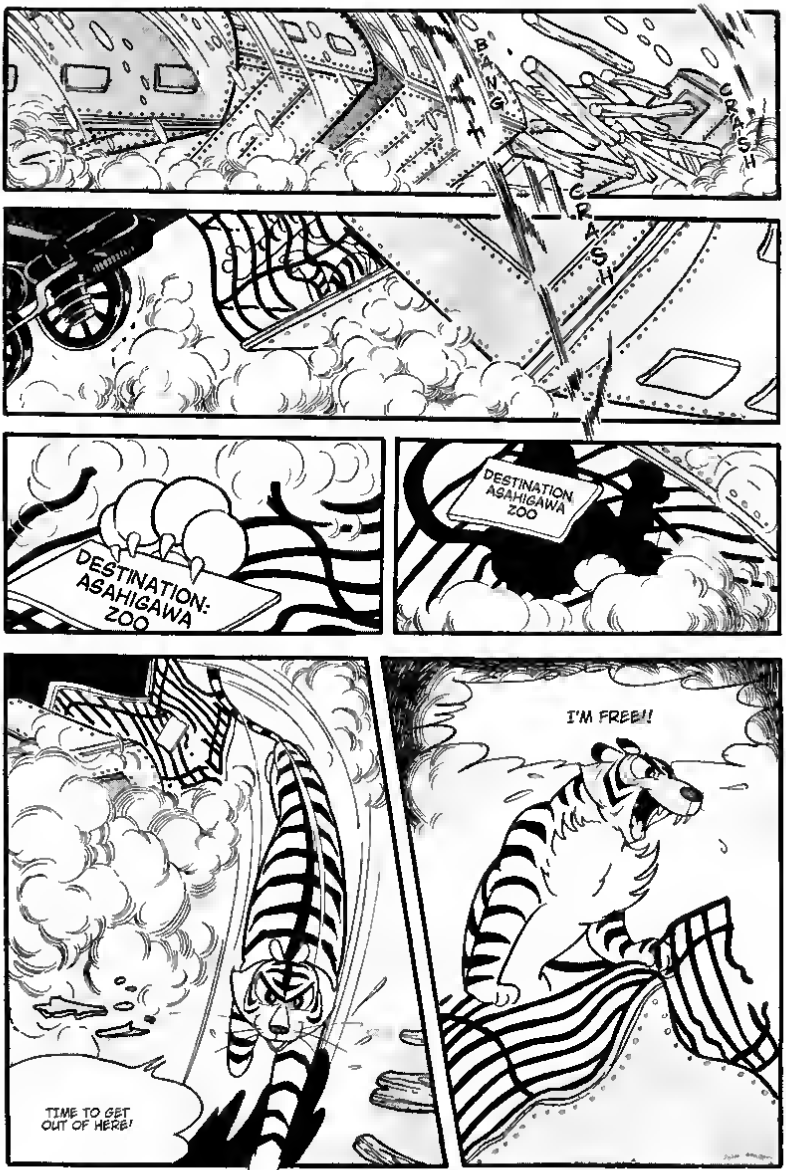
SWISH!
SWISH!
AROUND HERE, IF YOU DON'T WORK HARD, YOU GET BEATEN
HEY, NEWBIE!! STOP LAZING AROUND AND PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT!
NOBODY WILL MIND IF ONE OR TWO OF YOU GO MISSING UNDERSTAND?
YOU'RE ALL BROKE, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, EX-CONVICTS, AND GARBAGE
OF COURSE, I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO ACCEPT BRIBES IN EXCHANGE FOR FAVORABLE TREATMENT
I'M NOT A CRIMINAL!!
OH, YOU WANT SOME MORE, DO YOU?
WHAT?!
BE MORE CAREFUL OF YOUR WORDS IN THE FUTURE YOU HUMAN GARBAGE

YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET THIS
DON'T TALK BACK TO YOUR SUPERIORS!
MEN LIKE YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN BLOOD-SUCKING TICKS!
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
SMIRK!
CLICK
TIME TO PUT AN END TO YOUR TROUBLE-MAKING

GEN...
OKAMI!! GEN'S IN TROUBLE! HE'S GOTTEN INTO A FIGHT WITH...
BANG
AHHHH!
YOU HAVE TO RUN! GO NOW!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ..?
GAHHH...
WE HAVE TO GO!!


WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
PUUU
PUUU
PUUU
YELP
YELP
HAKK
HAKK
CURSED DOGS! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A WHIFF OF THIS?!
GEN, YOU'VE SET THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN ABLAZE!
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET US OUT OF HERE!
CRRREAK


CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CHOO
CHOO
CHOOOO
WHOOSH
CRASH
BANG
CREEAK


BANG
CRASH
CRASH
DESTINATION: ASAHIGAWA ZOO
DESTINATION ASAHIGAWA ZOO
I'M FREE!!
TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE!

THAT WON'T WORK! DAN ISN'T AFRAID OF FIRE OR WHIPS
UH-OH, DAN'S GOTTEN OUT OF HIS CAGE!
BE CAREFUL EVERY-ONE! SOME-BODY GET A WHIP
DASH
FEWWW
PANT
PANT
AFTER HIM!! CATCH HIM!!
I'M FREE! I'M FREE! HAHAHA, FREEDOM!! BRING YOUR ARROWS AND YOUR GUNS, I'M NOT SCARED!
HAH! AS IF A HUMAN COULD CATCH ME ON FOOT!

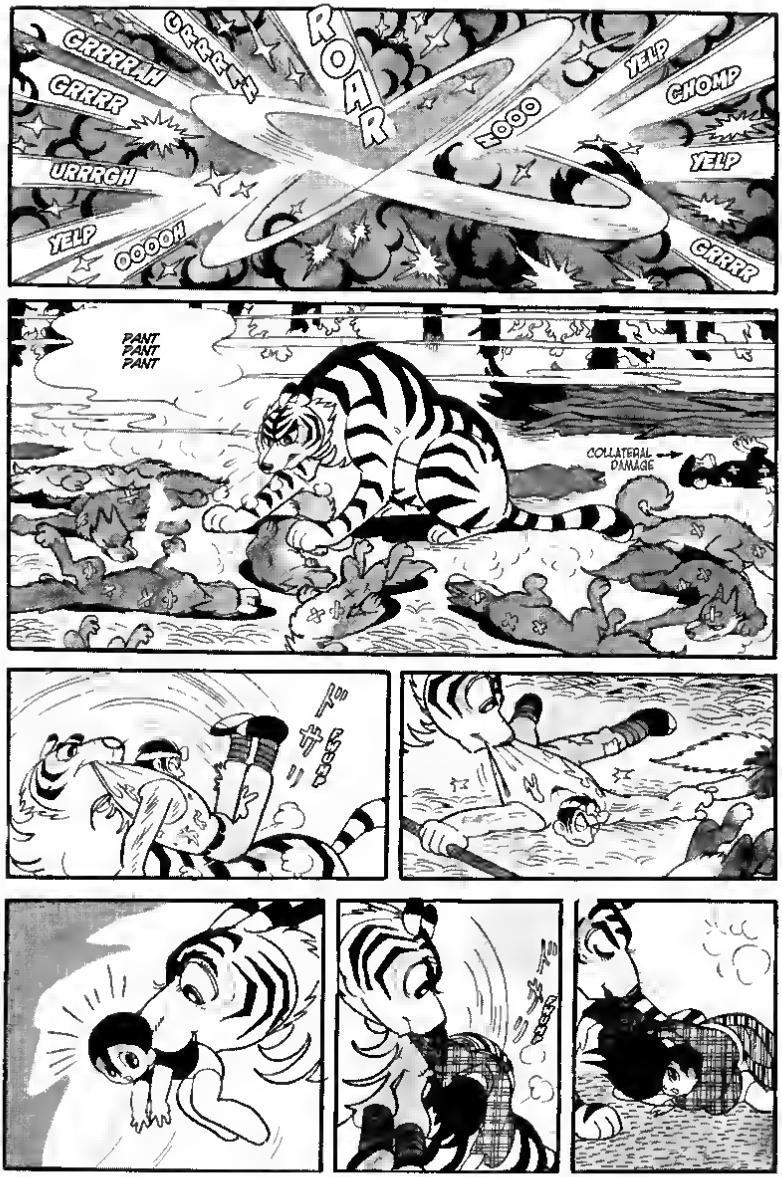
CRRRREAK
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
GRRRAH!

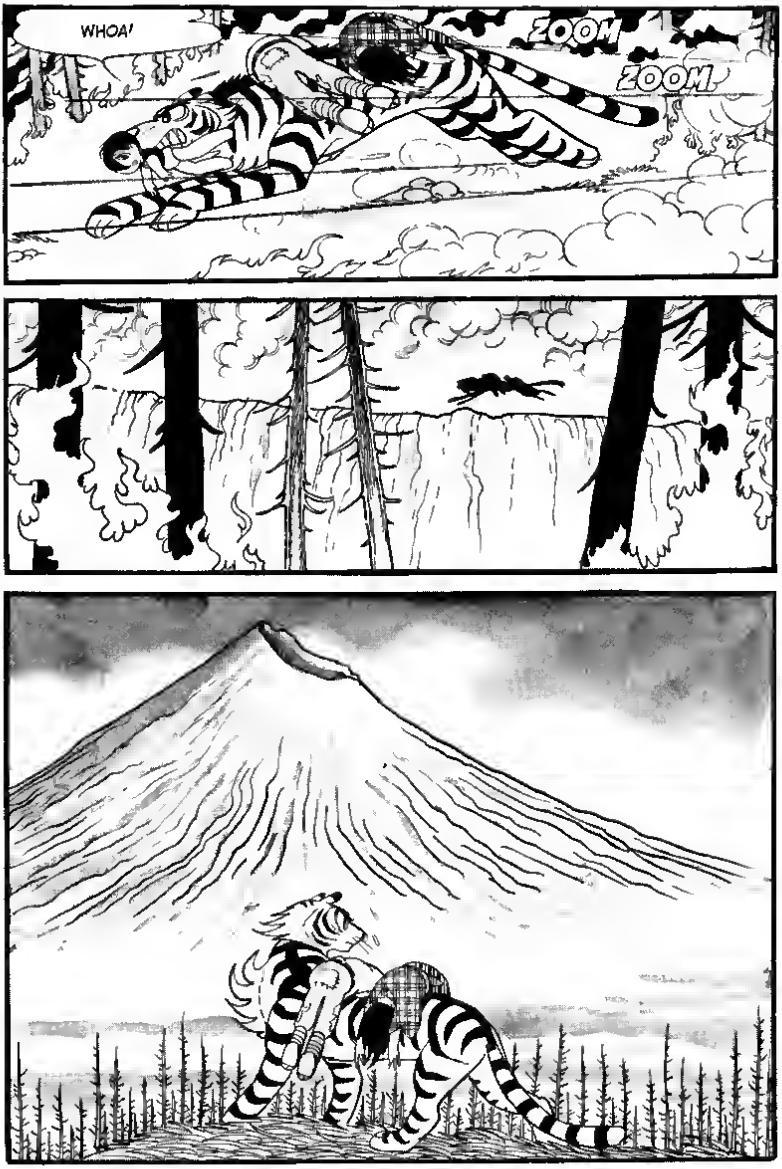
A TIGER?!

I'M DONE FOR I CAN'T GET OUT FROM UNDER THIS TREE!

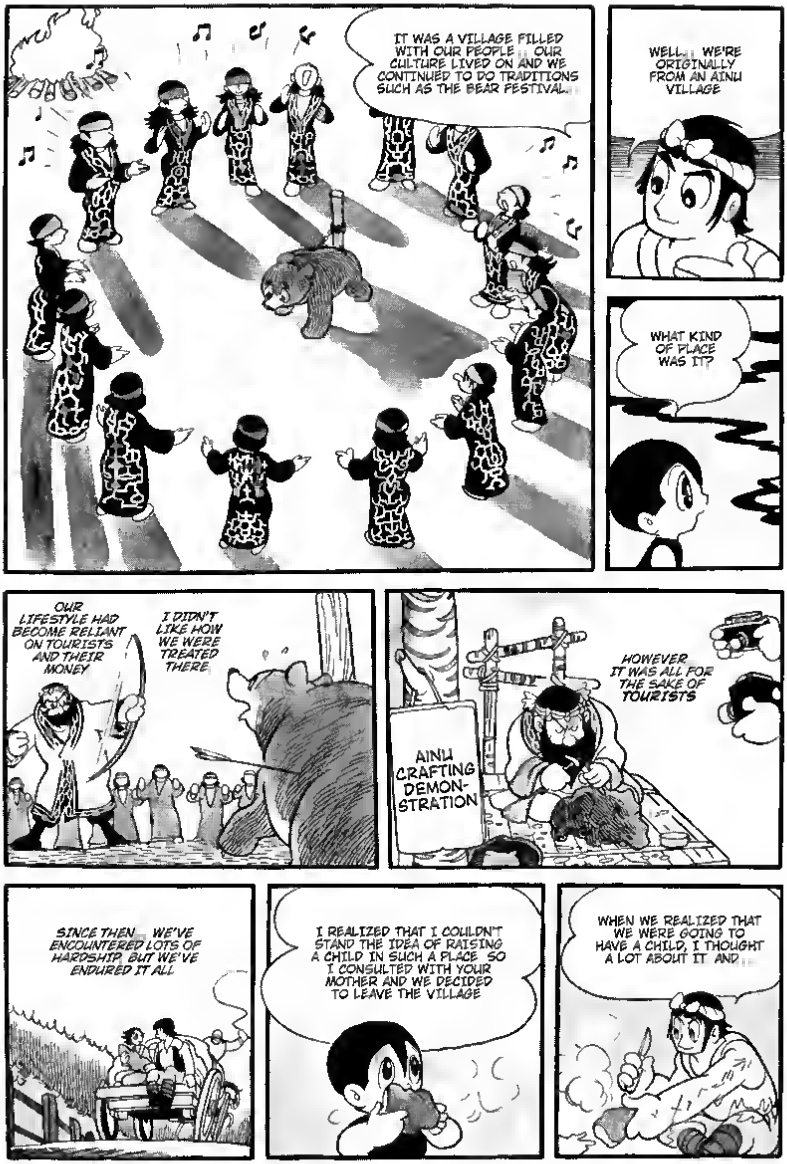
WAIT! DAD, WAIT...!
I'M SCARED GEN, LET'S KEEP GOING
HELP THAT TIGER, DAD! PLEASE, HELP HIM!
DAD! DAD!!
KOTAN WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
WHIMPER
URGH... UGH...
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! OUR PURSUERS ARE GOING TO CATCH UP...
BUT IF WE DON'T HELP HIM, HE'LL BURN TO DEATH!
GRR
GRRRR
AHHHH!!
SICK 'EM BOYS!!
THERE THEY ARE! THE AINU FAMILY THAT RAN AWAY!!

GAHHHH!!
CHOMP
BANG
OKAMI! KOTAN! HANG ON!!
CRACK
YELP
ROOOAR
YELP
YELP
SLIDE

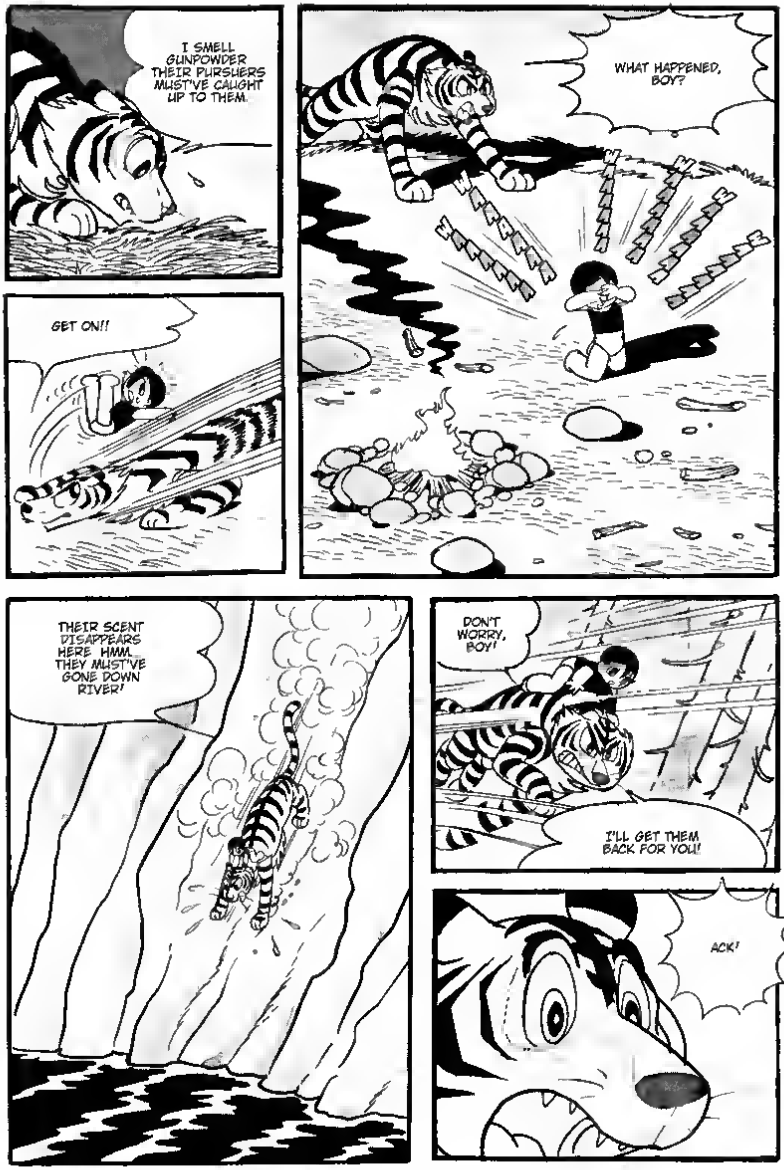

GRRRRAH
GRRRR
URRRGH
YELP
OOOOH
ROAR
OOOOH
YELP
CHOMP
YELP
GRRRR
PANT
PANT
PANT
COLLATERAL DAMAGE

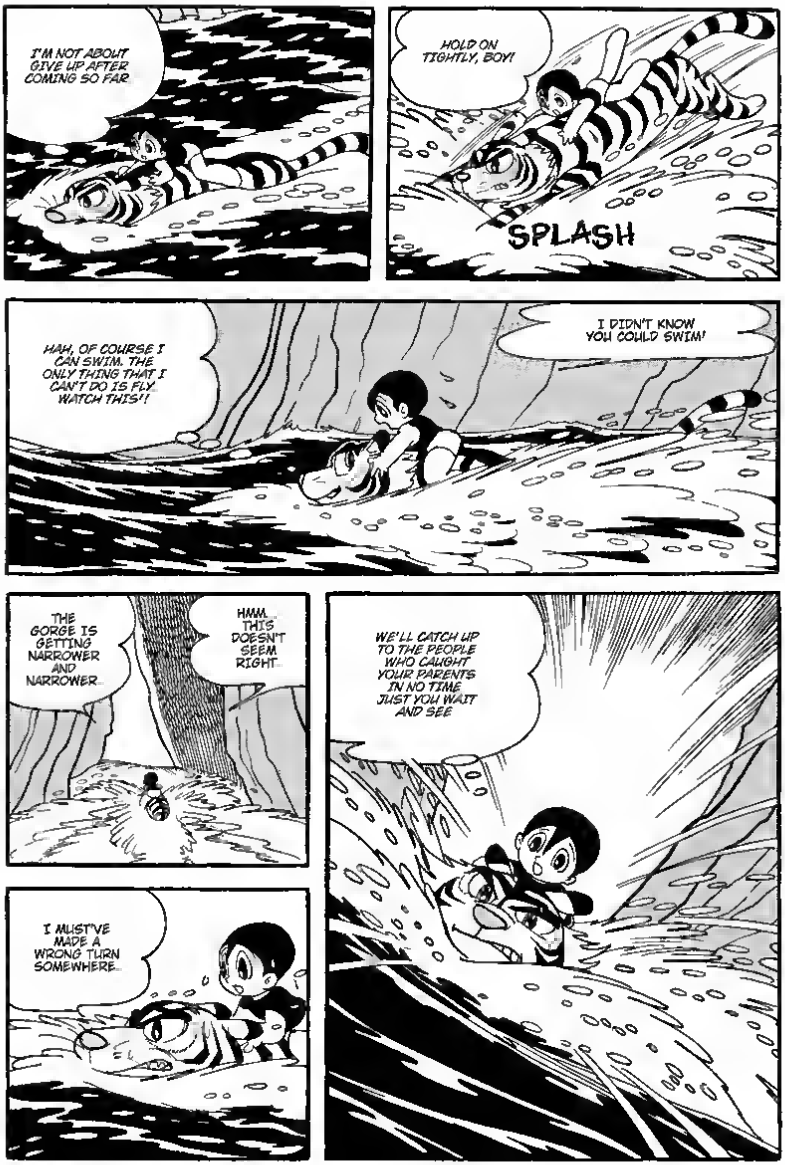

WHOA!
ZOOM
ZOOM

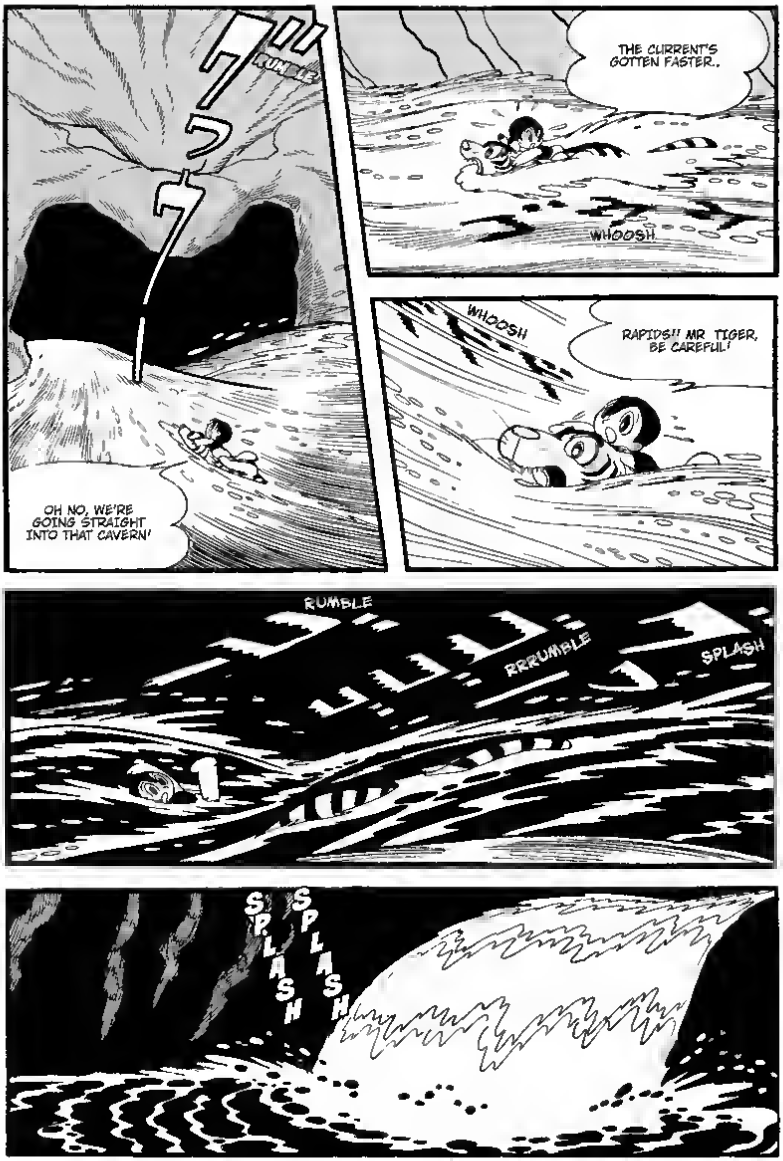
HOWEVER, A DEBT IS A DEBT AND I OWE THEM MY LIFE.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME HELPING HUMANS? ME?! I HATE HUMANS!
THANK YOU MR TIGER
SLURP SLURP
THIS TIGER, EH? HMM. HE'S EVEN BROUGHT US FOOD
MOM! THE TIGER SAVED US!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE SAFE KOTAN!
KOTAN WHERE ARE YOU?
AHH!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO LEAD SUCH A HARD LIFE, DAD?
ARE YOU TIRED, KOTAN?


IT WAS A VILLAGE FILLED WITH OUR PEOPLE... OUR CULTURE LIVED ON AND WE CONTINUED TO DO TRADITIONS SUCH AS THE BEAR FESTIVAL...
WELL... WE'RE ORIGINALLY FROM AN AINU VILLAGE
WHAT KIND OF PLACE WAS IT?
OUR LIFESTYLE HAD BECOME RELIANT ON TOURISTS AND THEIR MONEY
I DIDN'T LIKE HOW WE WERE TREATED THERE
AINU CRAFTING DEMON-STRATION
HOWEVER IT WAS ALL FOR THE SAKE OF TOURISTS
SINCE THEN... WE'VE ENCOUNTERED LOTS OF HARDSHIP BUT WE'VE ENDURED IT ALL
I REALIZED THAT I COULDN'T STAND THE IDEA OF RAISING A CHILD IN SUCH A PLACE SO I CONSULTED WITH YOUR MOTHER AND WE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE
WHEN WE REALIZED THAT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A CHILD, I THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT IT AND...

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS I'LL BE GOING NOW. THIS IS WHERE WE PART WAYS.
HERE'S SOME DINNER FOR YOU, MR TIGER.
SO THAT'S WHY, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS GET, YOU HAVE TO KEEP MOVING ON AND GROW INTO A GOOD PERSON.
OKAY.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED HUMANS LIKE THEM.
I HAVE REPAID MY DEBT. GOODBYE, LITTLE HUMAN. GROW UP STRONG.
ARE YOU GOING? ALREADY?
STILL... WITHOUT ME AROUND, THOSE THREE ARE PRETTY HELPLESS.
WELL, EVEN IF THERE ARE GOOD HUMANS OUT THERE I'M FINISHED WITH HUMANS NO MORE HUMANS FOR ME!
IT CAN'T BE...!
GUNSHOTS! COMING FROM THEIR DIRECTION?
WAIT! WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?

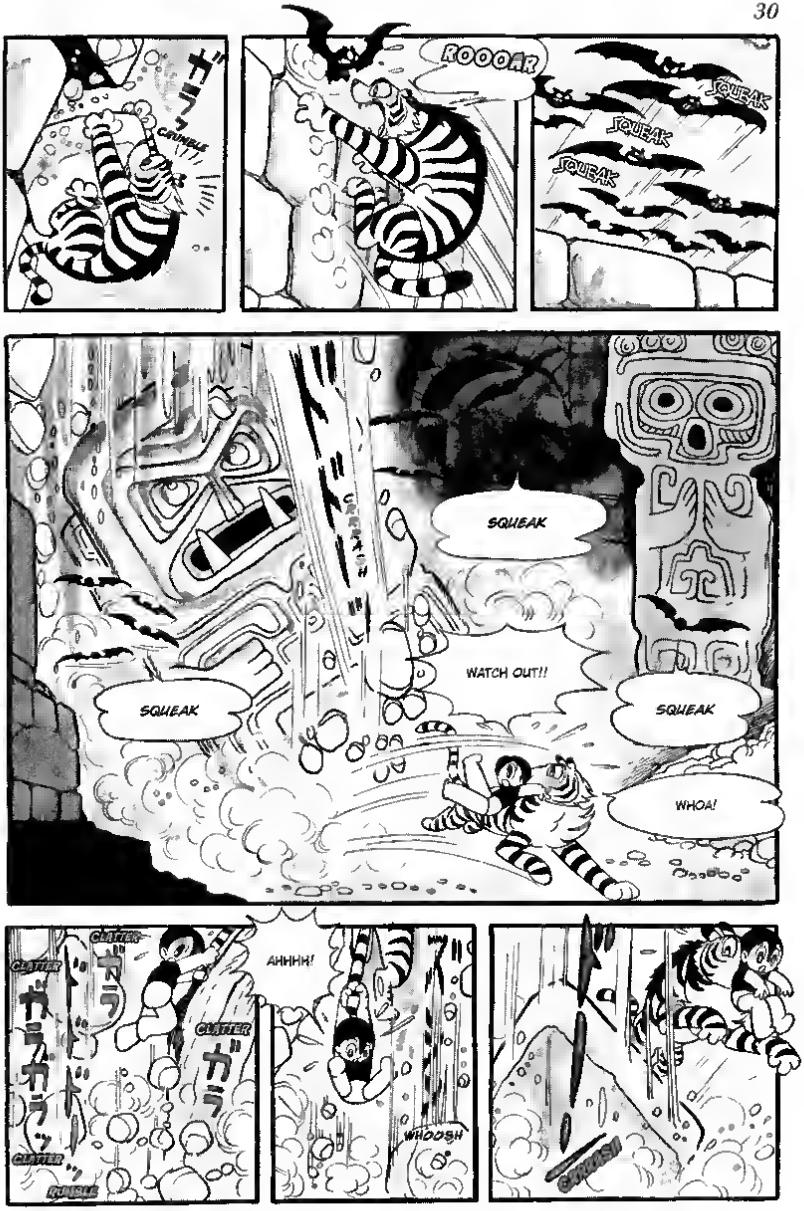

I SMELL GUNPOWDER THEIR PURSUERS MUST'VE CAUGHT UP TO THEM.
WHAT HAPPENED, BOY?
GET ON!!
THEIR SCENT DISAPPEARS HERE. HMM. THEY MUST'VE GONE DOWN RIVER!
DON'T WORRY, BOY!
I'LL GET THEM BACK FOR YOU!
ACK!


I'M NOT ABOUT GIVE UP AFTER COMING SO FAR
HOLD ON TIGHTLY, BOY!
SPLASH
HAH, OF COURSE I CAN SWIM. THE ONLY THING THAT I CAN'T DO IS FLY. WATCH THIS!!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD SWIM!
THE GORGE IS GETTING NARROWER AND NARROWER...
HMM... THIS DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT...
WE'LL CATCH UP TO THE PEOPLE WHO CAUGHT YOUR PARENTS IN NO TIME JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE
I MUST'VE MADE A WRONG TURN SOMEWHERE...


RUMBLE
OH NO, WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT INTO THAT CAVERN!
THE CURRENT'S GOTTEN FASTER..
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
RAPIDS!! MR. TIGER, BE CAREFUL!
RUMBLE
RRRUMBLE
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

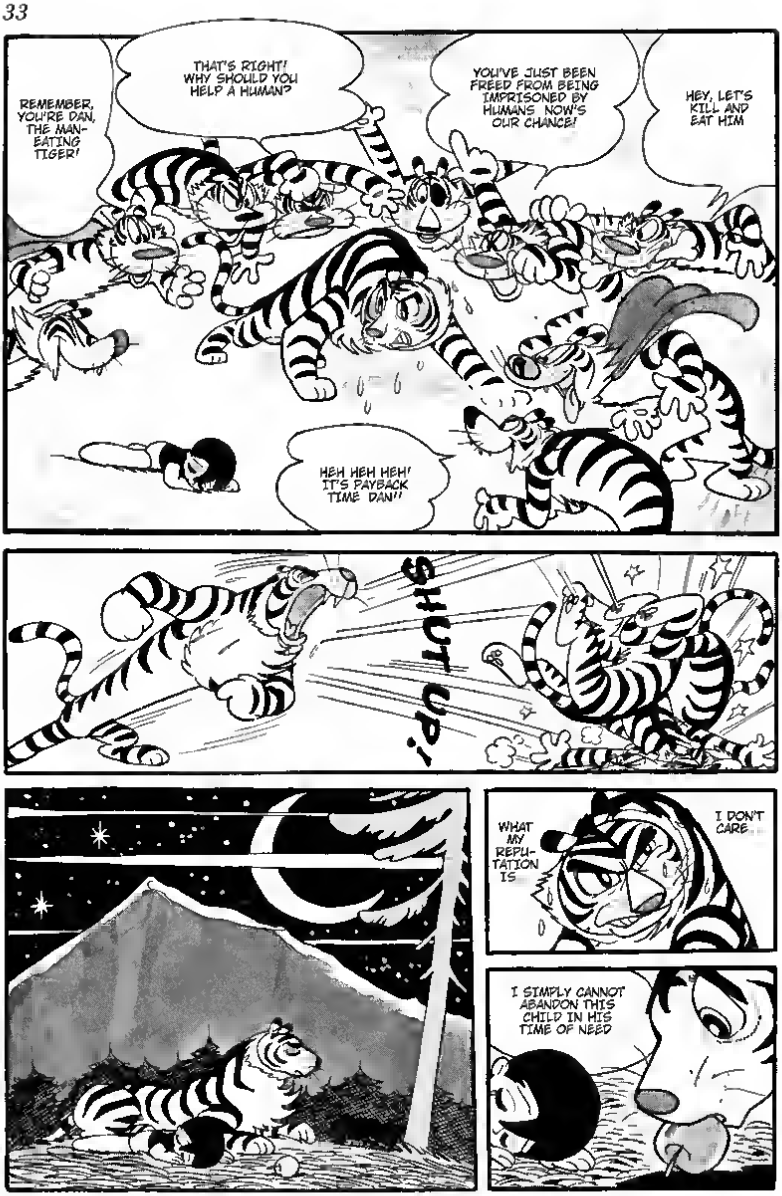
AHHH!
ARE YOU OKAY MR TIGER?
WOW! THIS IS AMAZING! THERE'S A HUGE BUILDING IN HERE!

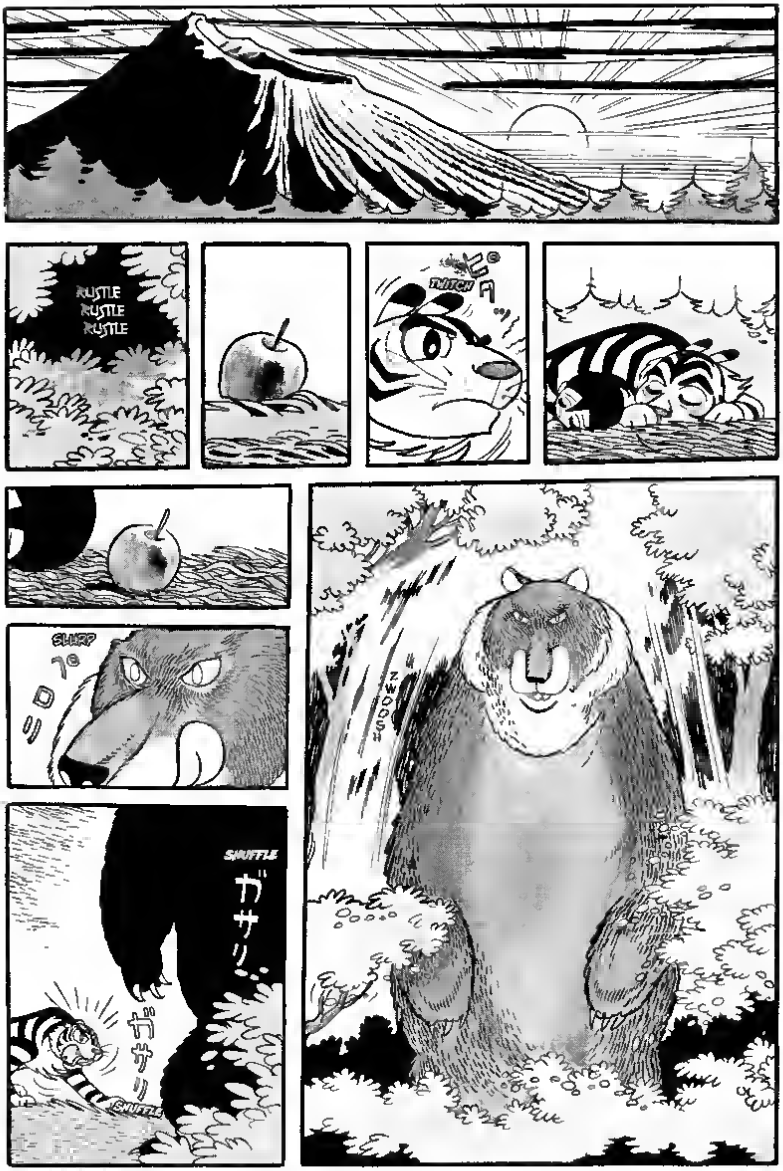
I WONDER WHEN THIS WAS MADE
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
THIS MUST BE A SHRINE TO SOME GOD. THAT'S THE FEELING THAT I GET ANYWAY
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
WHOOSH
SOMETHING'S THERE! WHAT'S MAKING THAT SOUND?
GRRRR!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
SQUEAK
CHOMP

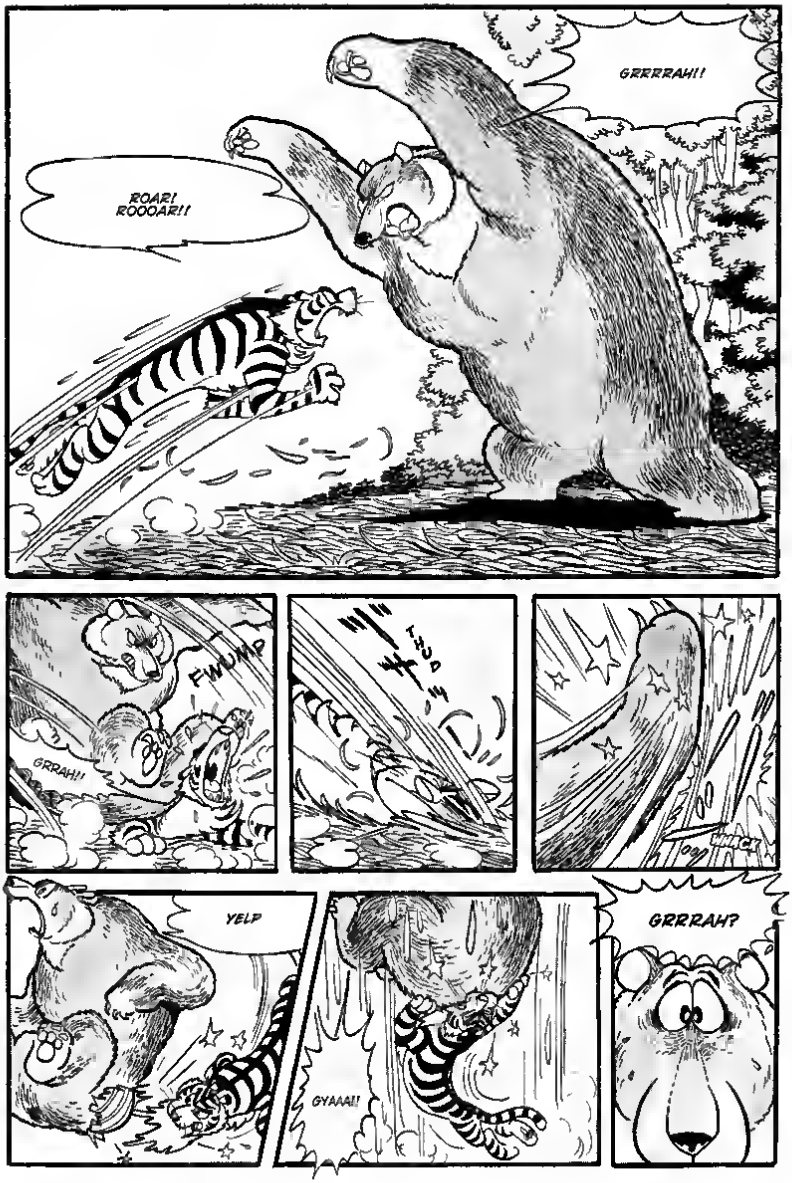

ガラ
CRUMBLE
ROOOAR
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
WATCH OUT!!
SQUEAK
WHOA!
CLATTER
ガラ
CLATTER
ガラ
CLATTER
ガラ
CLATTER
AHHHH!
WHOOSH
SMASH

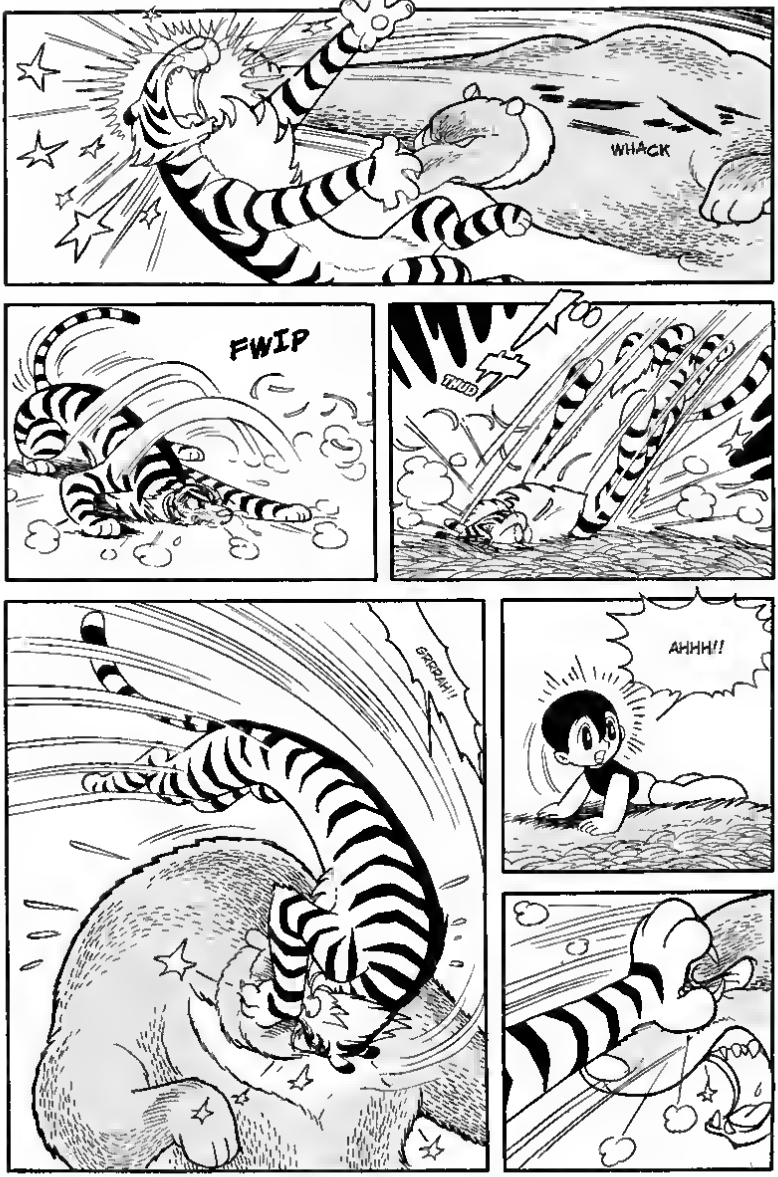
I WOULD'VE DIED DOWN THERE IF NOT FOR YOU!
STEADY
LOOK! THAT WALL THAT JUST FELL HAS REVEALED A PATH TO THE OUTSIDE!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU WON'T HELP ME ANYMORE?
WE HAVE TO FIND MY DAD AND MOM! WHAT?
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
NO! WE CAN'T COME THIS FAR ONLY TO GIVE UP!!
WHIMPER
YOU'VE LOST THEIR SCENT?
SNIFF SNIFF
DADDY!!
ROAR
WAAAA!
WAAAA!
WAAAA! I WANT MY DAD!! WAAAA!
WAAAA!
WAAAA!

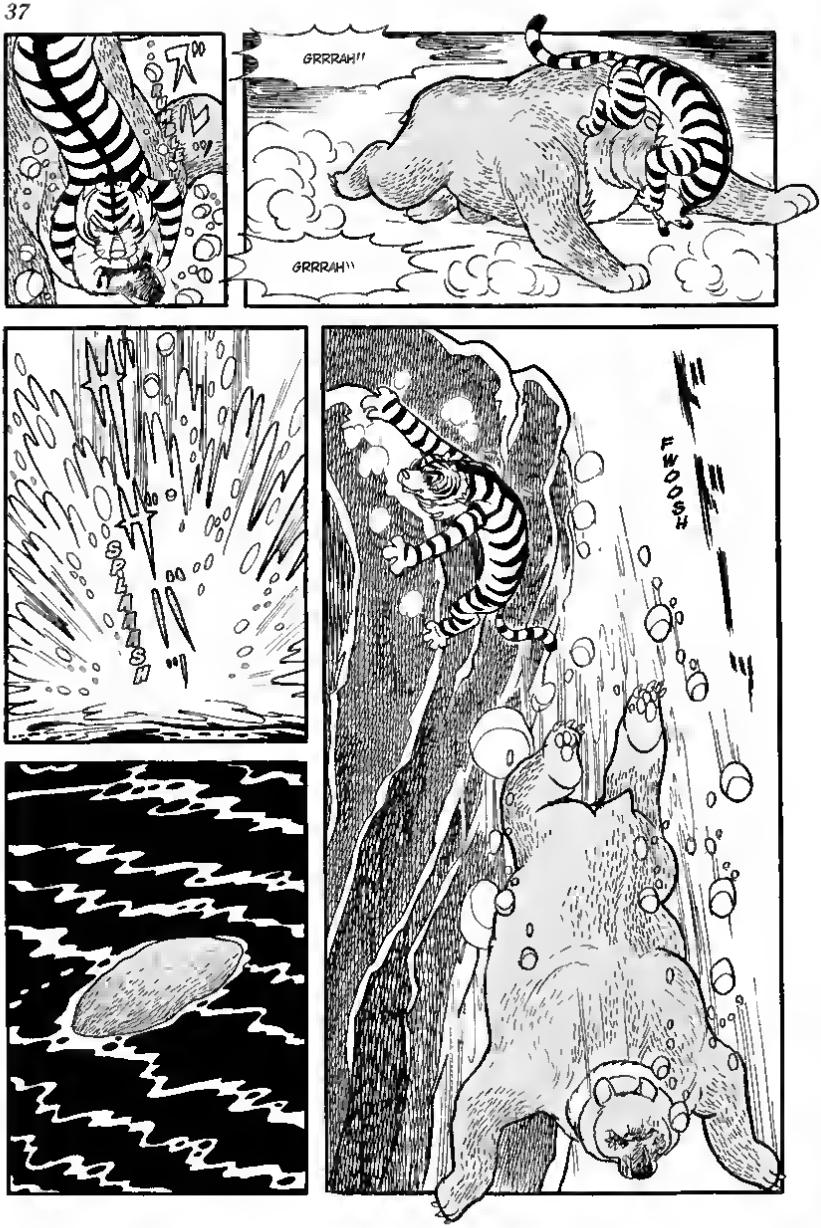
ROAR!
WAAAA! I WANT MY DADDY!!
I WANT MY MOMMY!! WAAAA!
STUPID TIGER, LET GO!
LET GO!
GO!!
LET—
BOY I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT WE'VE LOST TRACK OF THEM.
HAHHH. IF ONLY I KNEW HOW TO SPEAK HUMAN
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S CRIED HIMSELF TO SLEEP
HEY BOY
IF ONLY THEN I WOULD COMFORT YOU AS BEST I COULD
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE A BIT OLDER TO GO LOOKING FOR THEM AGAIN


REMEMBER, YOU'RE DAN, THE MAN-EATING TIGER!
THAT'S RIGHT! WHY SHOULD YOU HELP A HUMAN?
YOU'VE JUST BEEN FREED FROM BEING IMPRISONED BY HUMANS NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
HEY, LET'S KILL AND EAT HIM
HEH HEH HEH! IT'S PAYBACK TIME DAN!!
SHUT UP!
WHAT MY REPU-TATION IS
I DON'T CARE
I SIMPLY CANNOT ABANDON THIS CHILD IN HIS TIME OF NEED


RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
ピク
TWITCH
SNIFF
クンクン
SNUFFLE
ガサリ
ガサリ
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
GROWL

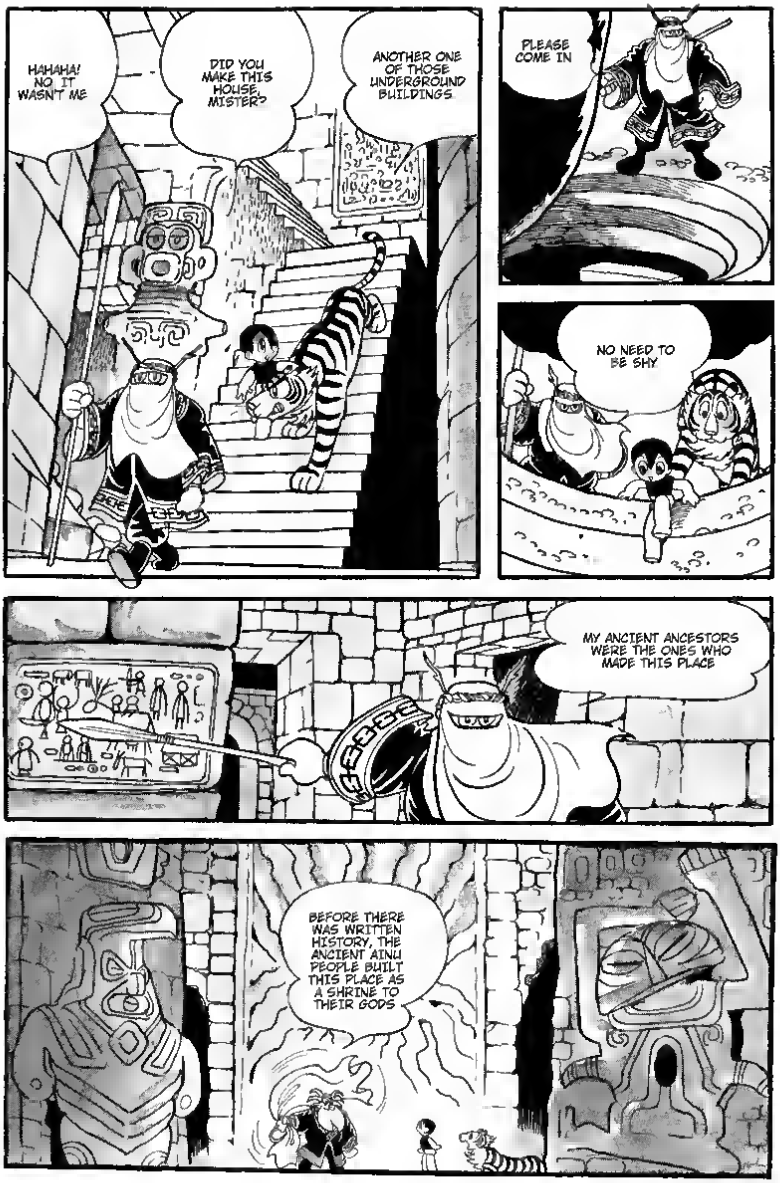

GRRRRAH!!
ROAR!
ROOOAR!!
FWUMP
GRRAH!!
YELP
GYAAA!!
GRRRAH?

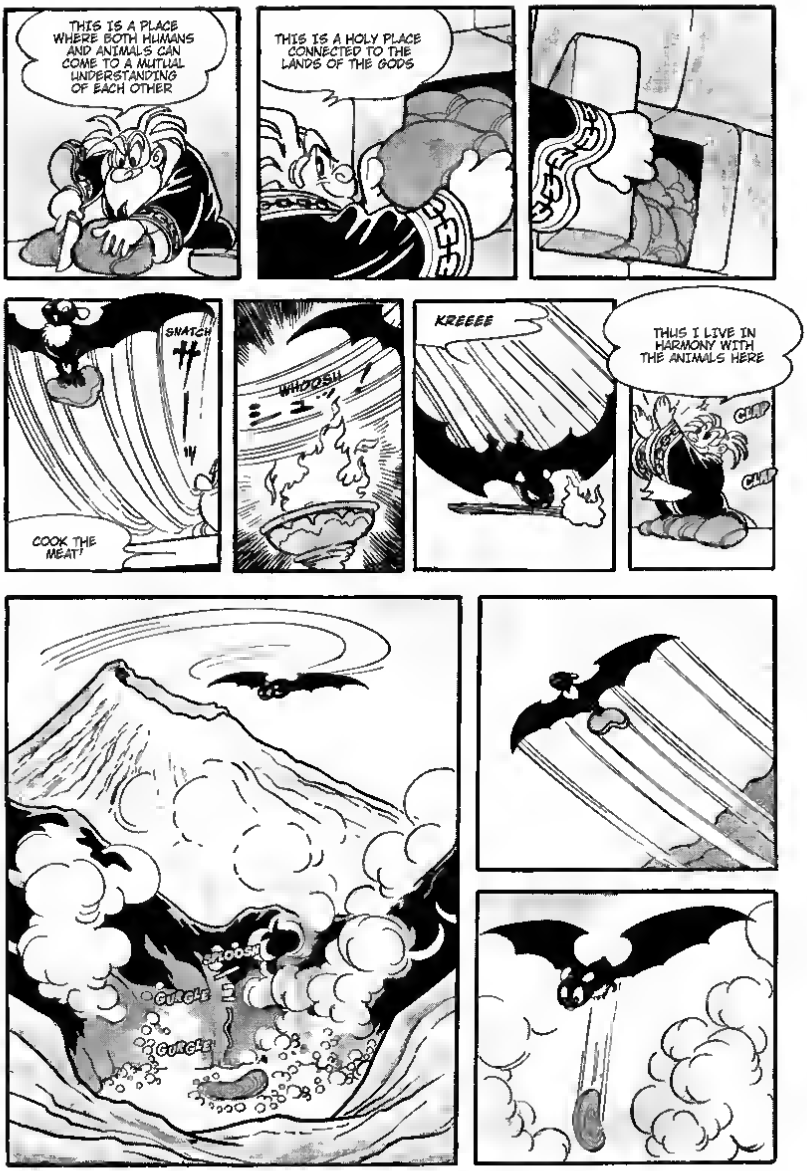

WHACK
FWIP
THUD
GRRRAH!!
AHHH!!


GRRRAH!!
GRRRAH!!
SPLLLASH
FWOOSH

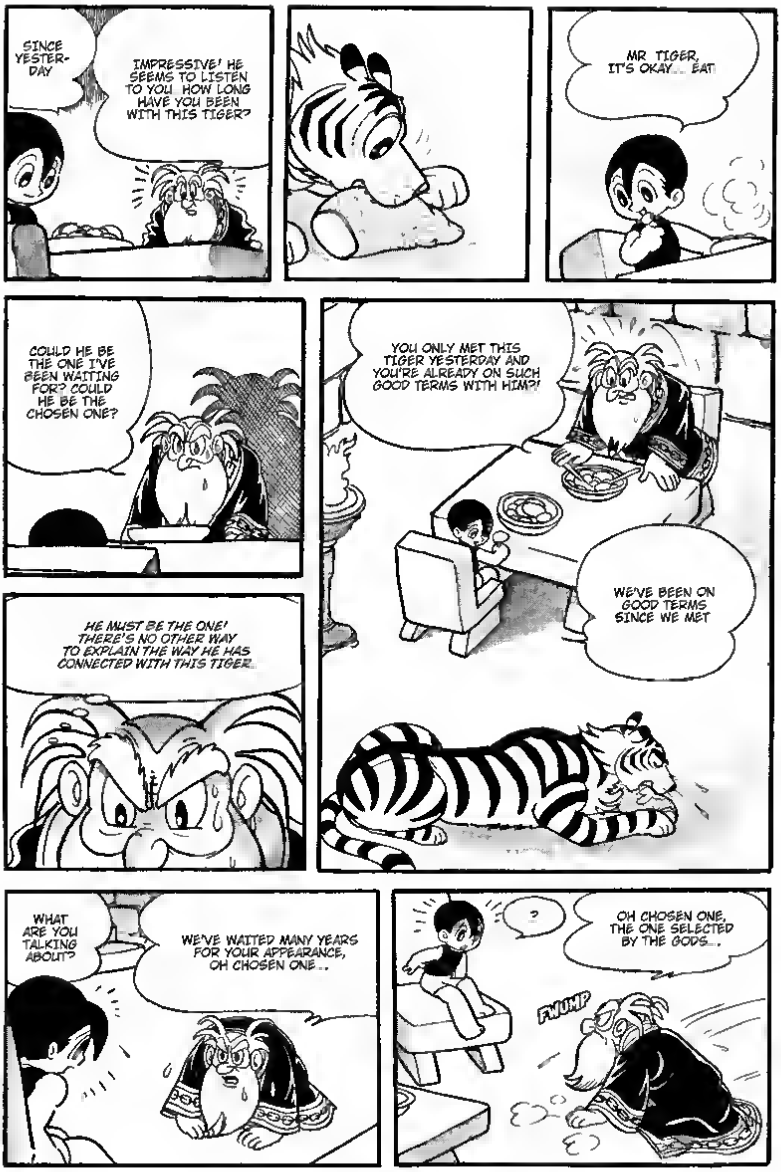
HE WAS THREE OR FOUR TIMES BIGGER THAN YOU!
WOW! I THOUGHT THAT I WAS A GONER FOR SURE.
MISTER TIGER!
HUFF
HUFF
HMM.. WHAT'S THIS?
WAIT! ARE YOU THE ONES WHO KILLED THE VIOLENT ONE?
WHY THIS IS THIS IS THE VIOLENT ONE'S BODY!
ROOOAR
TWITCH

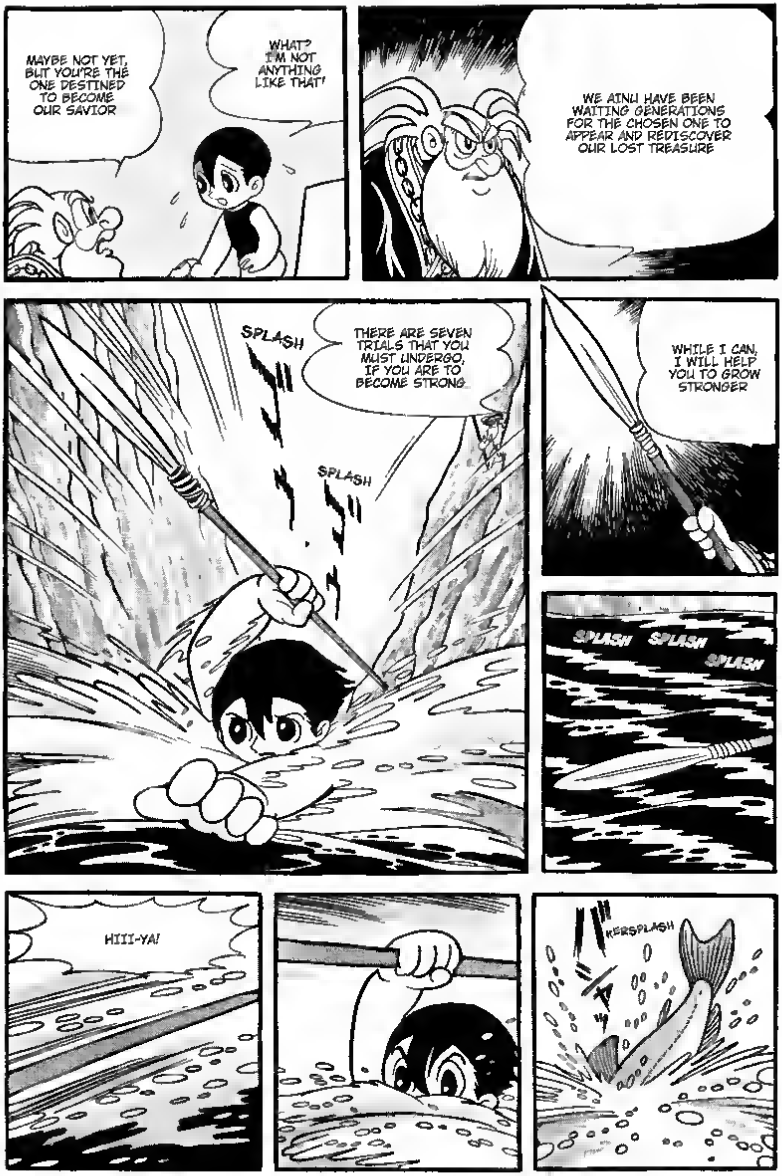
I'VE BEEN COMING TO THESE MOUNTAINS FOR TWENTY YEARS, HOPING TO ONE DAY DEFEAT HIM IN COMBAT.....
HMM... A CHILD AND A TIGER TRAVELLING TOGETHER? QUITE MYSTERIOUS... WHERE ARE YOU COMING FROM AND WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?
I SEE, SO IT WAS THE TIGER WHO DID HIM IN FOR ME.
HERE, COME INTO MY HOUSE. WE CAN REST, AND YOU CAN TELL ME OF YOURSELF.
GRRRRR
TING


HAHAHA! NO, IT WASN'T ME
DID YOU MAKE THIS HOUSE, MISTER?
ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE UNDERGROUND BUILDINGS
PLEASE COME IN
NO NEED TO BE SHY
MY ANCIENT ANCESTORS WERE THE ONES WHO MADE THIS PLACE
BEFORE THERE WAS WRITTEN HISTORY, THE ANCIENT AINU PEOPLE BUILT THIS PLACE AS A SHRINE TO THEIR GODS

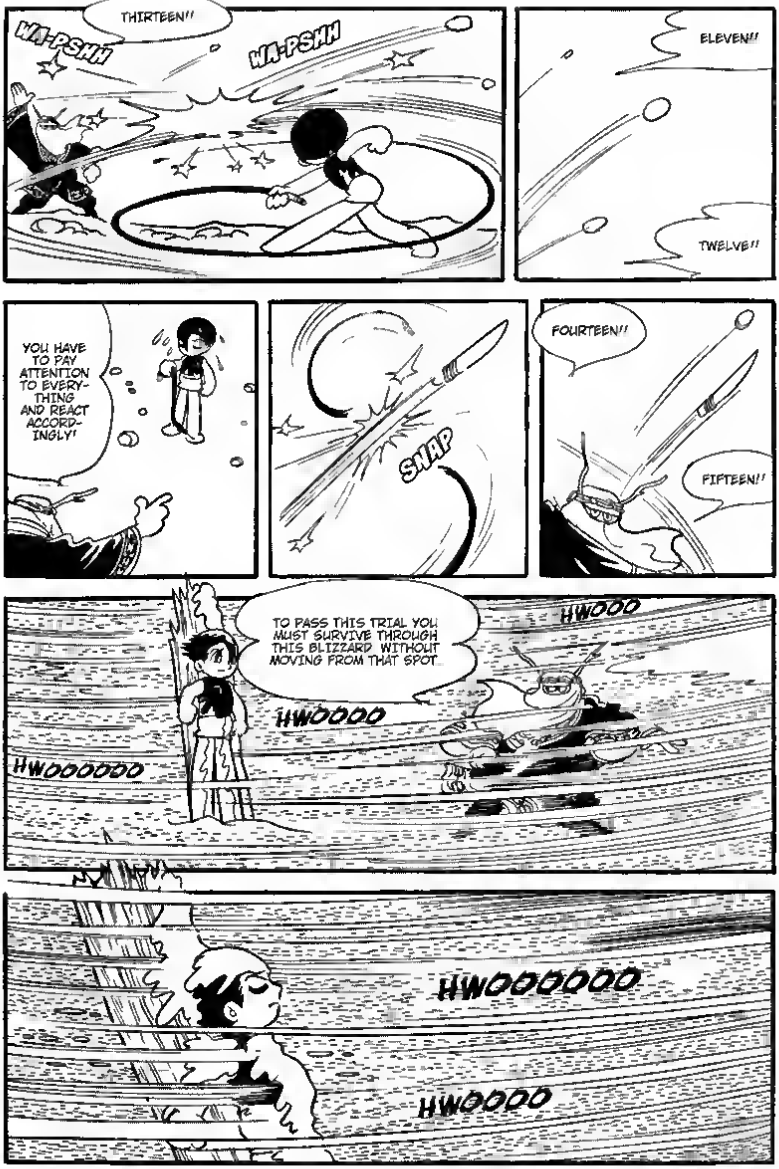

THIS IS A PLACE WHERE BOTH HUMANS AND ANIMALS CAN COME TO A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER
THIS IS A HOLY PLACE CONNECTED TO THE LANDS OF THE GODS
SNATCH
COOK THE MEAT!
WHOOSH
KREEEE
THUS I LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE ANIMALS HERE
CHAP
CHAP
WOOSH
GURGLE
GURGLE

SNATCH
HERE, PLEASE EAT YOUR PILL
THE BATS AND I HAVE GROWN VERY CLOSE OVER THE YEARS, AND THEY HELP ME WITH MANY TASKS AROUND HERE...
MY NAME IS KOTAN
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BOY?
GRRRR
SNIFF
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T WORRY, I HAVEN'T POISONED IT.
KOTAN? HOHOHO! SO YOU'RE OF AINU HERITAGE AS WELL? MY NAME'S UPOPO.
GRRR


SINCE YESTER-DAY
IMPRESSIVE! HE SEEMS TO LISTEN TO YOU. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THIS TIGER?
MR TIGER, IT'S OKAY... EAT
COULD HE BE THE ONE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR? COULD HE BE THE CHOSEN ONE?
YOU ONLY MET THIS TIGER YESTERDAY AND YOU'RE ALREADY ON SUCH GOOD TERMS WITH HIM?!
WE'VE BEEN ON GOOD TERMS SINCE WE MET
HE MUST BE THE ONE! THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO EXPLAIN THE WAY HE HAS CONNECTED WITH THIS TIGER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WE'VE WAITED MANY YEARS FOR YOUR APPEARANCE, OH CHOSEN ONE...
?
OH CHOSEN ONE, THE ONE SELECTED BY THE GODS...
FWUMP


WHAT? I'M NOT ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
MAYBE NOT YET, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE DESTINED TO BECOME OUR SAVIOR
WE AINU HAVE BEEN WAITING GENERATIONS FOR THE CHOSEN ONE TO APPEAR AND REDISCOVER OUR LOST TREASURE
SPLASH
THERE ARE SEVEN TRIALS THAT YOU MUST UNDERGO, IF YOU ARE TO BECOME STRONG.
SPLASH
WHILE I CAN, I WILL HELP YOU TO GROW STRONGER
SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH
HIII-YA!
KERSPLASH

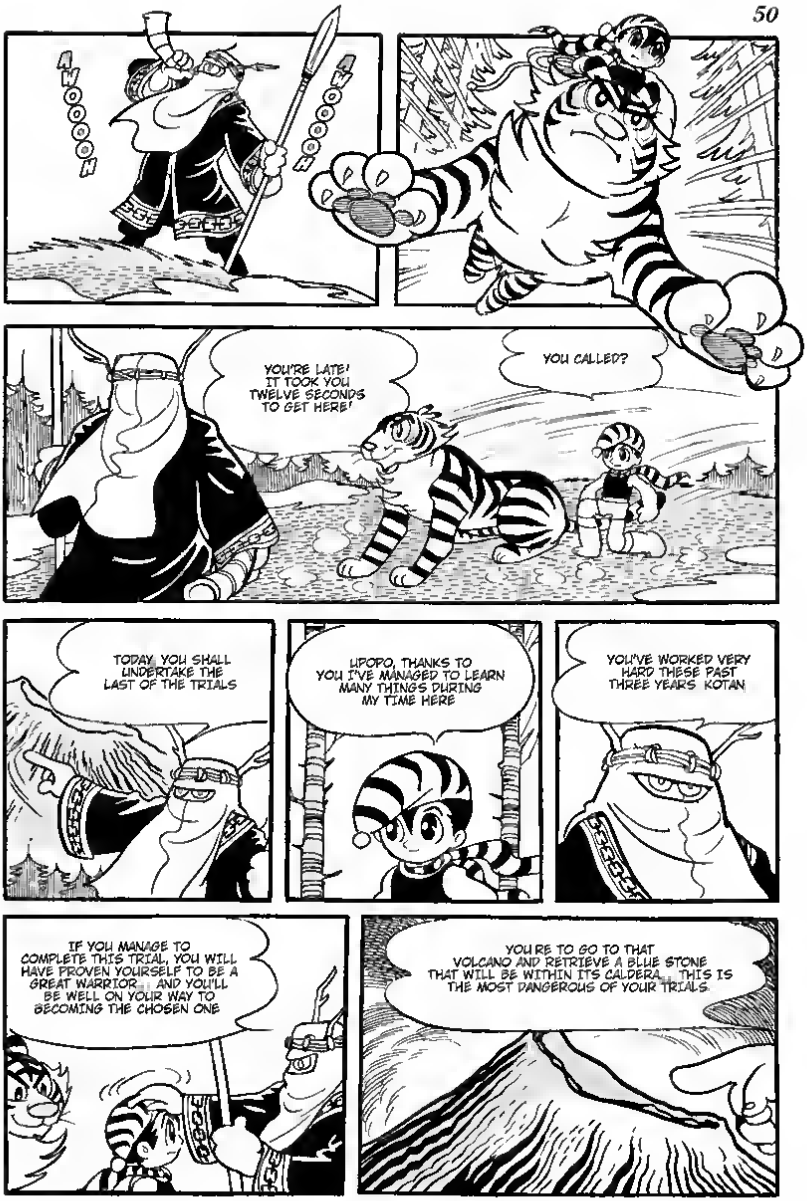
RUMBLE
YOU CAN'T EVEN FINISH OFF A FISH THAT'S TIRED FROM SWIMMING UP RIVER THIS LONG DISTANCE FROM THE OCEAN?
YOU'VE MISSED AGAIN?
KERSPLASH
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE
NOW, DO IT AGAIN!!
THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT!


THIRTEEN!!
WA-PSHH
WA-PSHH
ELEVEN!!
TWELVE!!
YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO EVERY-THING AND REACT ACCORD-INGLY!
SHIP
FOURTEEN!!
FIFTEEN!!
TO PASS THIS TRIAL YOU MUST SURVIVE THROUGH THIS BLIZZARD WITHOUT MOVING FROM THAT SPOT.
HWOOO
HWOOOOO
HWOOOOOOO
HWOOOOOOO
HWOOOOO

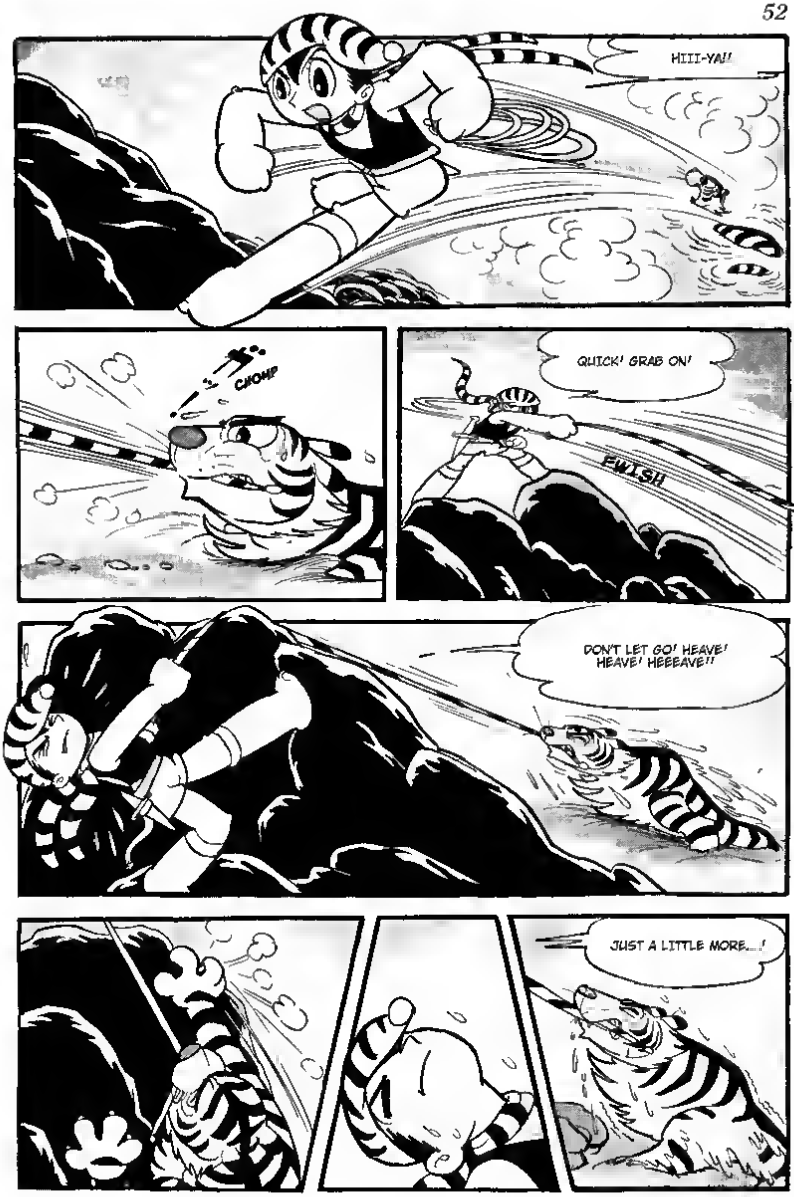
ROOOAR
HWOOOO
GO DOWN NOW BEFORE YOU GET FROZEN, TOO!
NO, DAN YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE I HAVE TO DO THIS BY MYSELF
DAN! GO NOW! DAN...
YUP!!
THE BLIZZARD IS OVER KOTAN DID YOU SURVIVE?

AS THE SNOW PILED UP, I CONCENTRATED ON MAKING MY ENTIRE BODY SHIVER
IT WASN'T COLD AT ALL!
WELL THIS IS A SURPRISE! YOU SEEM TO BE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN I EXPECTED
VERY GOOD! THIS EXPERIENCE AND YOUR ABILITY TO KEEP CALM WILL SERVE YOU WELL IN THE FUTURE
AS THE SNOW THAT COVERED ME BEGAN TO FREEZE, I COULD FEEL WARMTH BUILDING UP AROUND ME.
IF WE PLACE HIM IN A SUNNY SPOT HE SHOULD RETURN TO NORMAL
GUWO
WELL, WELL! IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A TIGER-ICICLE
DAN! AW, POOR DAN!
AND SO... KOTAN AND DAN CONTINUED TO TRAIN. ONE YEAR, THEN TWO YEARS, AND THEN AFTER THREE YEARS...

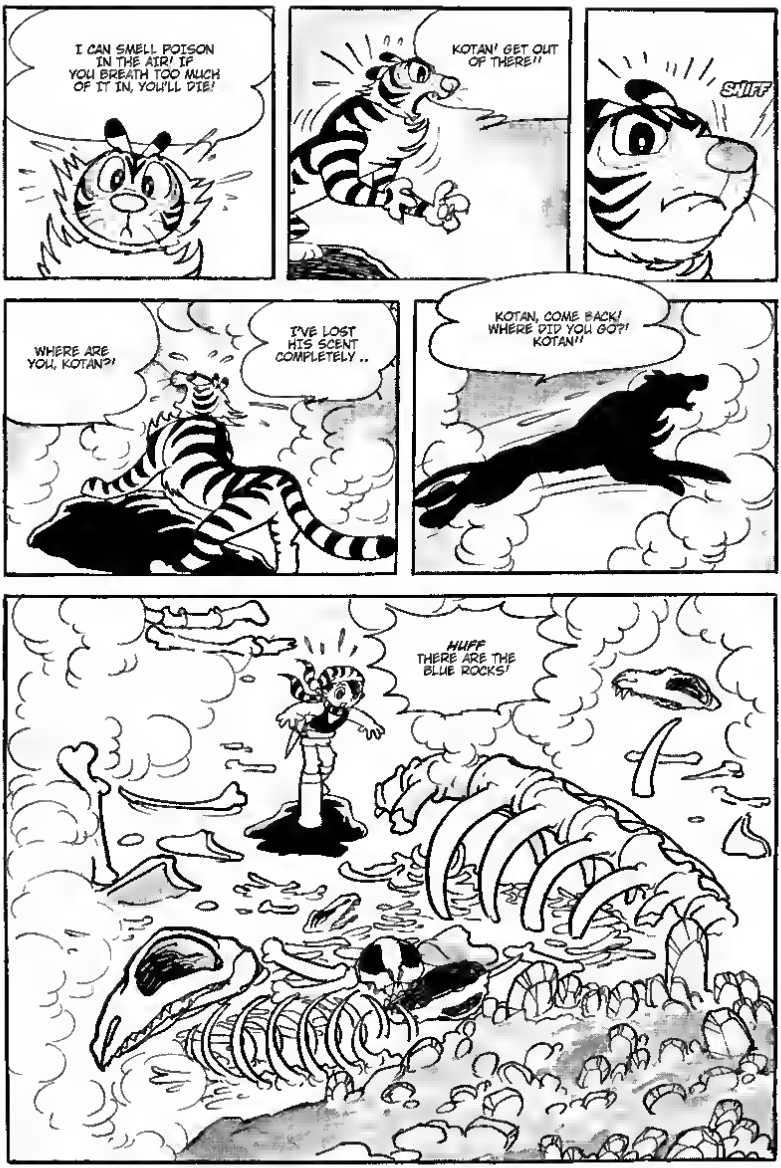
WHOOOOSH
FWOOSH
FWOOSH


AWOOOOH
HOOOOOO
YOU'RE LATE! IT TOOK YOU TWELVE SECONDS TO GET HERE!
YOU CALLED?
TODAY, YOU SHALL UNDERTAKE THE LAST OF THE TRIALS
LIPOPO, THANKS TO YOU I'VE MANAGED TO LEARN MANY THINGS DURING MY TIME HERE
YOU'VE WORKED VERY HARD THESE PAST THREE YEARS KOTAN
IF YOU MANAGE TO COMPLETE THIS TRIAL, YOU WILL HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF TO BE A GREAT WARRIOR... AND YOU'LL BE WELL ON YOUR WAY TO BECOMING THE CHOSEN ONE
YOU'RE TO GO TO THAT VOLCANO AND RETRIEVE A BLUE STONE THAT WILL BE WITHIN ITS CALDERA... THIS IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF YOUR TRIALS

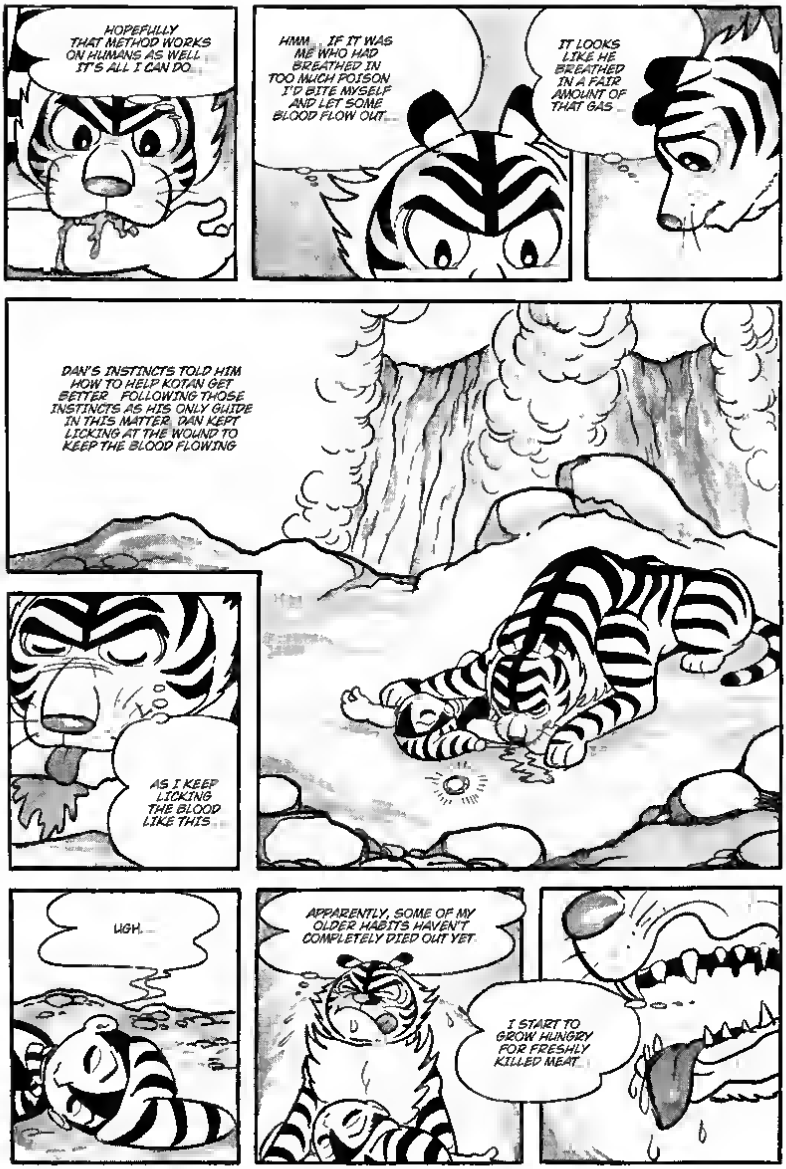
TO THE LOCATION OF OUR LAST TRIAL!!
LET'S GO, DAN!!
IF YOU RETURN SUCCESSFULLY I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW OF THE LOST AINU TREASURE
WHOA! THIS IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE PROCEED WITH CAUTION, DAN
KOOOM
HOLD ON, DAN!
SQUELCH
SQUELCH
SQUELCH
VOLCANIC QUICKSAND!!
ACK!!
SQUELCH
SQUELCH

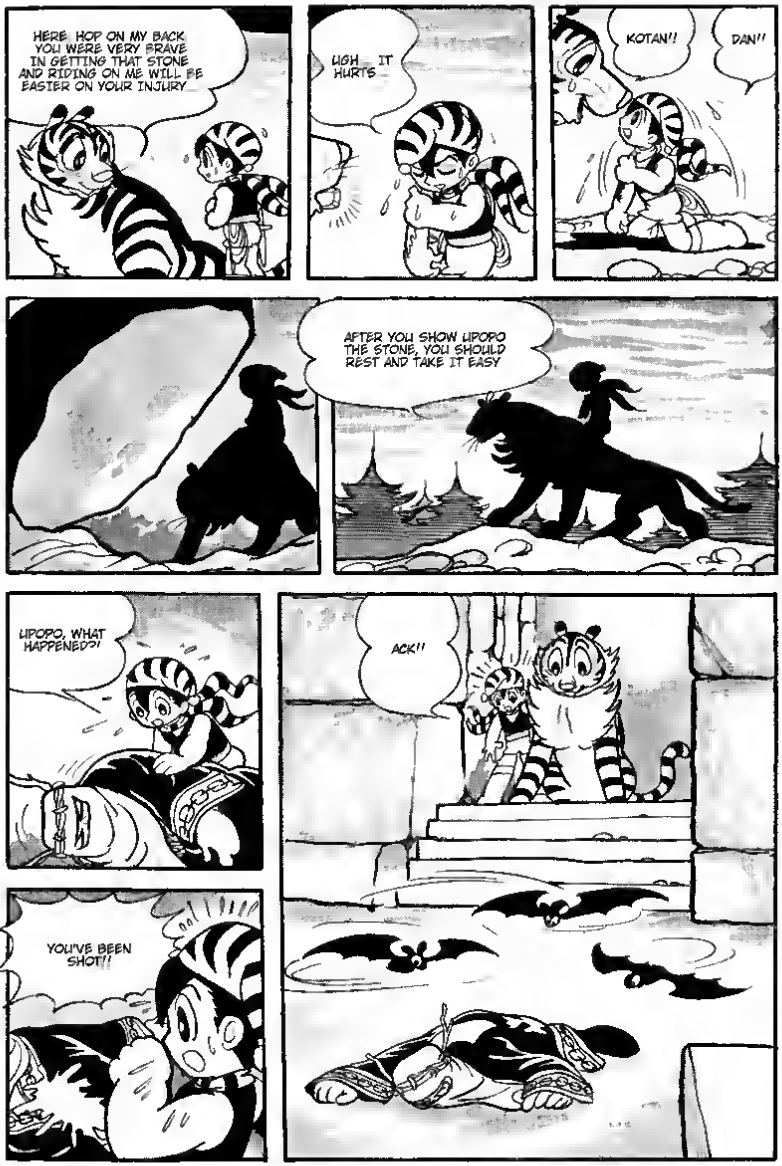

HIII-YA!!
CHOMP
QUICK! GRAB ON!
FWISH
DON'T LET GO! HEAVE! HEAVE! HEEEAVE!!
JUST A LITTLE MORE...!

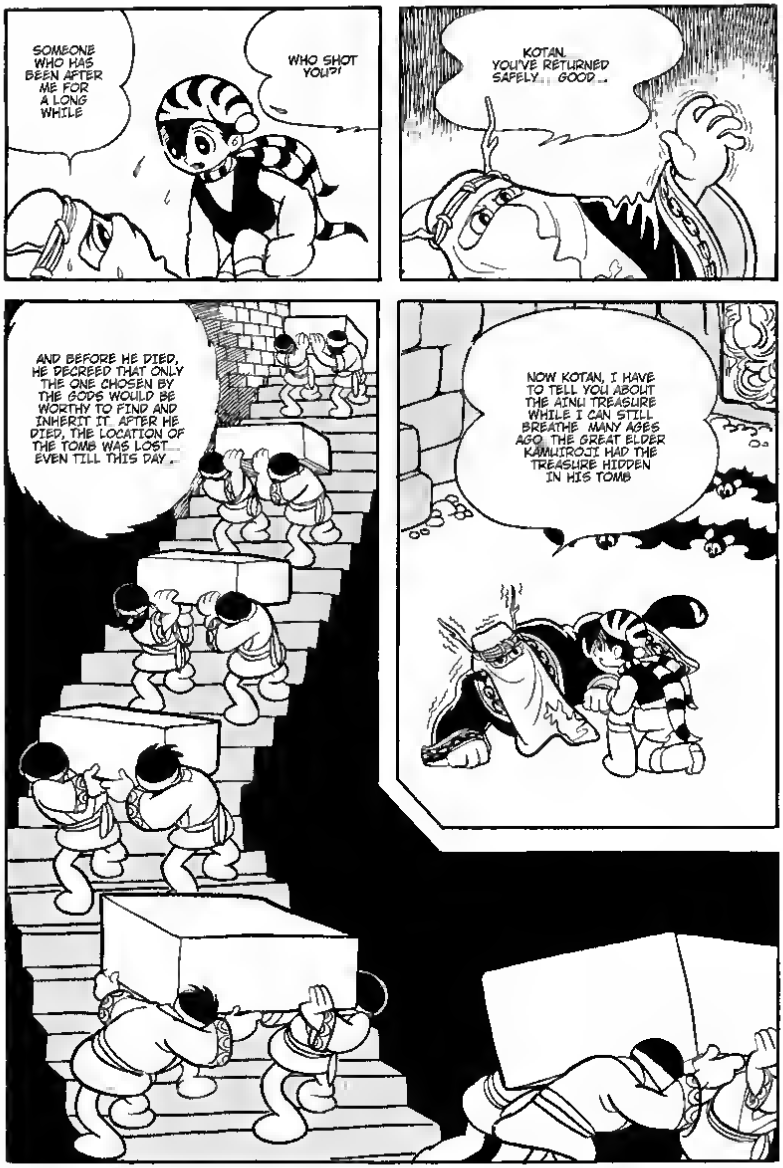
TO GET TO THAT BLUE STONE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET AROUND THIS QUICKSAND SOMEHOW
HUFF HUFF PHEW! WE GOT LUCKY.
FUMP
FUMP
AH! I'VE GOT IT!! WE CAN JUMP FROM ROCK TO ROCK, BUT BE CAREFULL NOT TO FALL IN!
KOTAN! BE MORE CAREFULL! DON'T JUST RUN OFF BY YOURSELF!
WHOA!!
BE CAREFUL OF THAT LAST ROCK, IT WAS A LITTLE WOBBLY!
FUMP
HE'S SO RECKLESS..
IT'S OKAY! NOW HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE!!

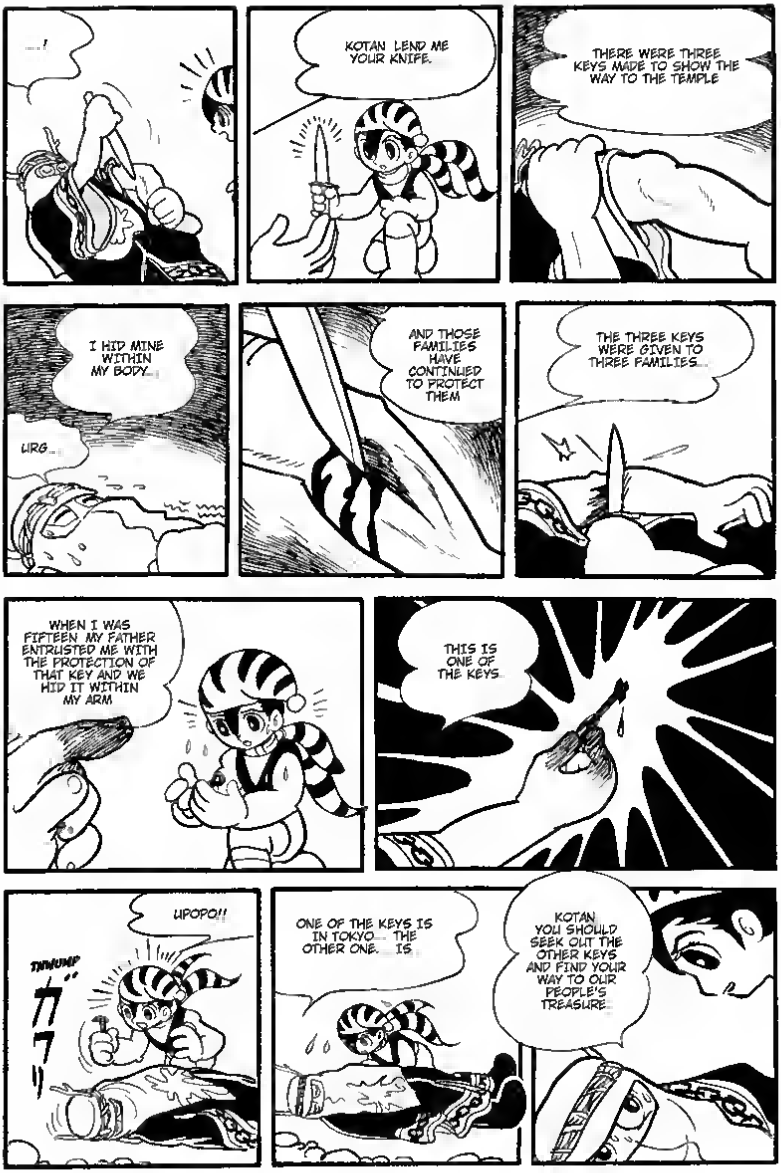

I CAN SMELL POISON IN THE AIR! IF YOU BREATH TOO MUCH OF IT IN, YOU'LL DIE!
KOTAN! GET OUT OF THERE!!
SNIFF
WHERE ARE YOU, KOTAN?!
I'VE LOST HIS SCENT COMPLETELY ..
KOTAN, COME BACK! WHERE DID YOU GO?! KOTAN!!
HUFF THERE ARE THE BLUE ROCKS!

EVERYTHING'S SPINNING BREATHING HURTS.
HAKK WAIT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT...
WOW! THEY SURE ARE BEAUTIFUL!!
AH! KOTAN, HERE YOU ARE! OH NO, YOU BREATHED IN THE GAS, DIDN'T YOU!?
CAN'T GIVE UP... NOW
I HAVE TO GET HIM OUT QUICKLY!!
KOTAN!!
KOTAN!
KOTAN!

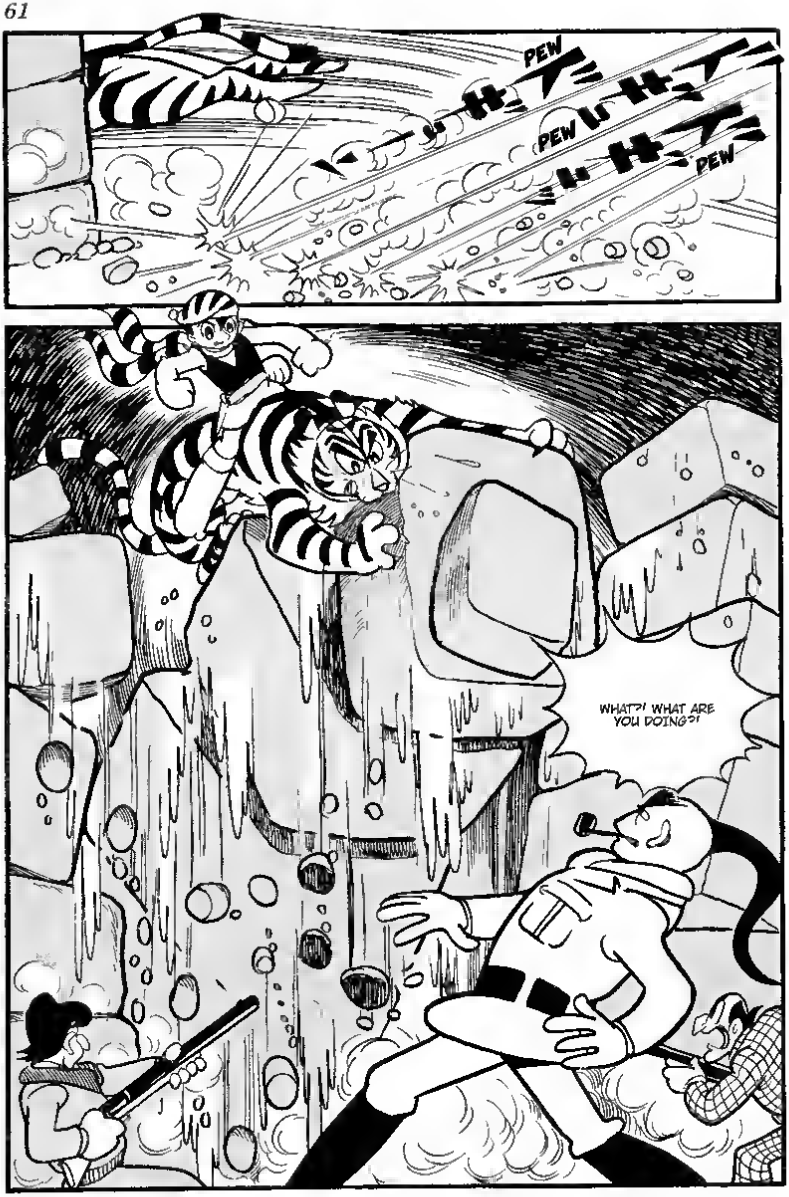

HOPEFULLY THAT METHOD WORKS ON HUMANS AS WELL. IT'S ALL I CAN DO.
HMM... IF IT WAS ME WHO HAD BREATHED IN TOO MUCH POISON I'D BITE MYSELF AND LET SOME BLOOD FLOW OUT.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE BREATHED IN A FAIR AMOUNT OF THAT GAS.
DAN'S INSTINCTS TOLD HIM HOW TO HELP KOTAN GET BETTER. FOLLOWING THOSE INSTINCTS AS HIS ONLY GUIDE IN THIS MATTER, DAN KEPT LICKING AT THE WOUND TO KEEP THE BLOOD FLOWING
AS I KEEP LICKING THE BLOOD LIKE THIS...
UGH...
APPARENTLY, SOME OF MY OLDER HABITS HAVEN'T COMPLETELY DIED OUT YET.
I START TO GROW HUNGRY FOR FRESHLY KILLED MEAT.

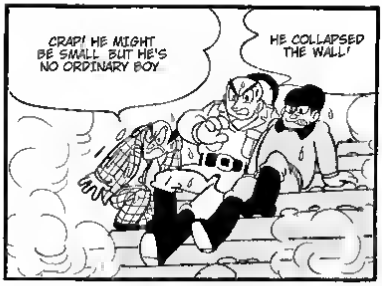

HERE, HOP ON MY BACK. YOU WERE VERY BRAVE IN GETTING THAT STONE AND RIDING ON ME WILL BE EASIER ON YOUR INJURY.
UGH... IT HURTS.
KOTAN!!
DAN!!
AFTER YOU SHOW UPOPO THE STONE, YOU SHOULD REST AND TAKE IT EASY.
UPOPO, WHAT HAPPENED?!
ACK!!
YOU'VE BEEN SHOT!!

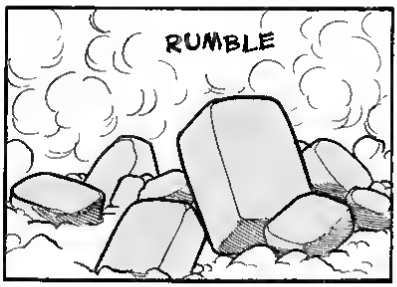

SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN AFTER ME FOR A LONG WHILE
WHO SHOT YOU?!
KOTAN, YOU'VE RETURNED SAFELY... GOOD...
AND BEFORE HE DIED, HE DECREED THAT ONLY THE ONE CHOSEN BY THE GODS WOULD BE WORTHY TO FIND AND INHERIT IT. AFTER HE DIED, THE LOCATION OF THE TOMB WAS LOST... EVEN TILL THIS DAY...
NOW KOTAN, I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE AINU TREASURE WHILE I CAN STILL BREATHE. MANY AGES AGO, THE GREAT ELDER KAMUIROJI HAD THE TREASURE HIDDEN IN HIS TOMB

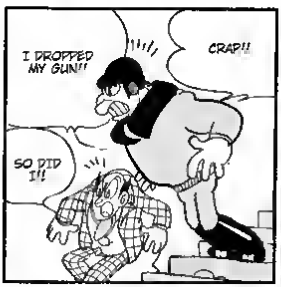

...!
KOTAN LEND ME YOUR KNIFE.
THERE WERE THREE KEYS MADE TO SHOW THE WAY TO THE TEMPLE
I HID MINE WITHIN MY BODY...
URG...
AND THOSE FAMILIES HAVE CONTINUED TO PROTECT THEM
THE THREE KEYS WERE GIVEN TO THREE FAMILIES...
WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN MY FATHER ENTRUSTED ME WITH THE PROTECTION OF THAT KEY AND WE HID IT WITHIN MY ARM
THIS IS ONE OF THE KEYS.
UPOPO!!
TAMUMP
ONE OF THE KEYS IS IN TOKYO... THE OTHER ONE... IS...
KOTAN YOU SHOULD SEEK OUT THE OTHER KEYS AND FIND YOUR WAY TO OUR PEOPLE'S TREASURE...

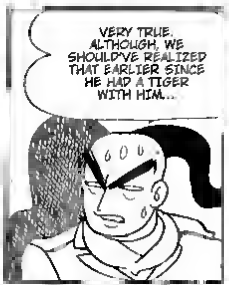
MUWAHAHAHA! THE THIRD KEY IS IN MY POSSESSION!
UPOPO!! PLEASE DON'T DIE...
I AM THE OWNER OF THE THIRD KEY HOWEVER I WANT TO POSSESS ALL THE KEYS, SO KINDLY HAND THAT ONE OVER!!
BANG BANG
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN YOU SHALL BOTH DIE
DAN, QUICK!! SWALLOW THE KEY!!

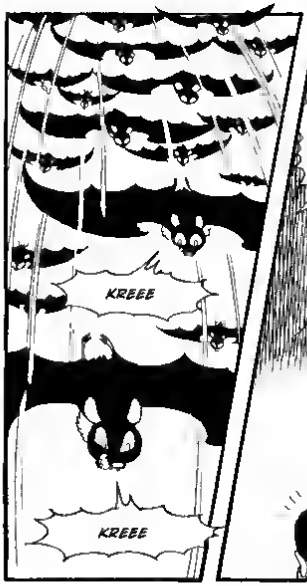

PEW
PEW
PEW
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!


CRAP! HE MIGHT BE SMALL BUT HE'S NO ORDINARY BOY
HE COLLAPSED THE WALL!


RUMBLE


I DROPPED MY GUN!!
CRAP!!
SO DID I!!

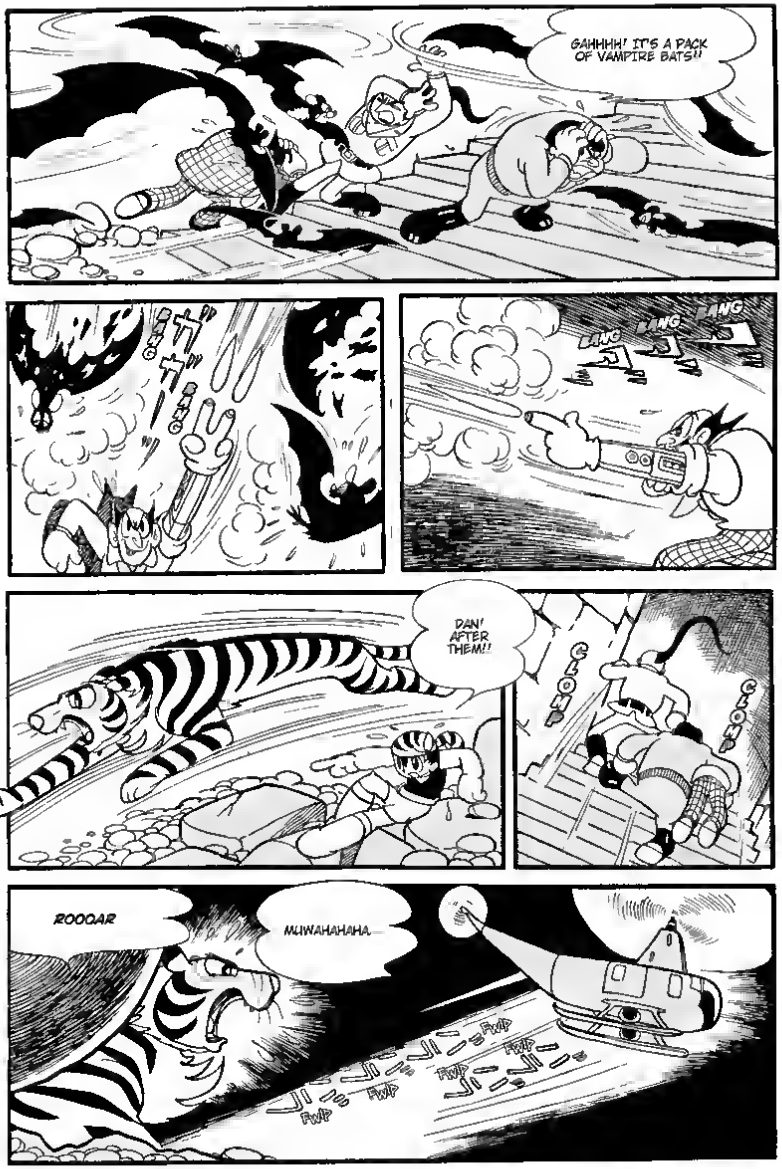

VERY TRUE. ALTHOUGH, WE SHOULD'VE REALIZED THAT EARLIER SINCE HE HAD A TIGER WITH HIM...


KREEE
KREEE

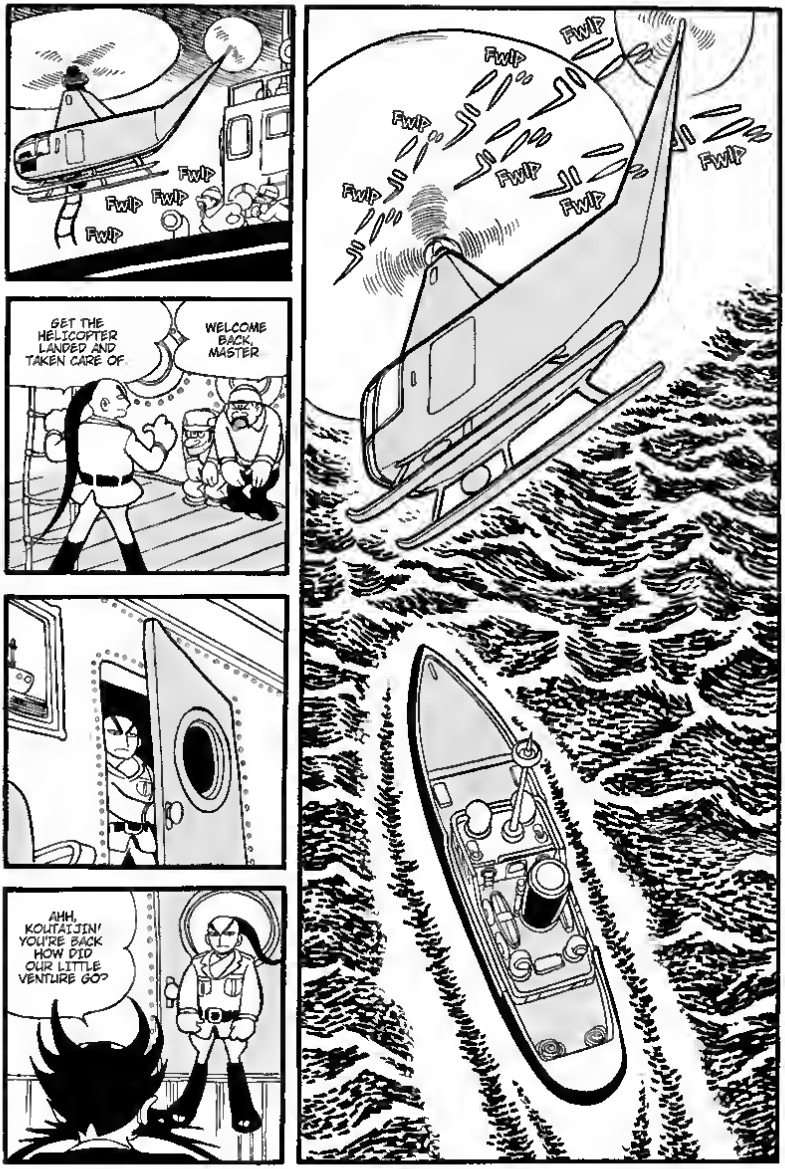
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU CAME FROM... BUT WE'RE GOING TO PAY YOU BACK FOR WHAT YOU DID HERE!!

IDIOTS! TAKE CARE OF YOUR WEAPONS!!

HEHEHE! YOU DROPPED YOUR PISTOL TOO, BOSS!


GAHHHH! IT'S A PACK OF VAMPIRE BATS!!
LANG
LANG
LANG
DAN! AFTER THEM!!
CLOMP
CLOMP
ROOOAR
MUWAHAHAHA
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP

DAMMIT! THEY GOT AWAY!!
Fwip
Fwip
Fwip
Fwip
Fwip
HMM... SO THEY MUST'VE BEEN THE ONES WHO SHOT UPOPO...
THEY'D MURDER JUST TO GET A KEY?
WHY WOULD THEY KILL UPOPO...?
CAN I HAVE THE KEY BACK FOR A MOMENT, PLEASE?
HMM... I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THEY ARE... WHY ARE THEY AFTER THE KEYS?
SUCH A SMALL THING...


FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
GET THE HELICOPTER LANDED AND TAKEN CARE OF.
WELCOME BACK, MASTER
AHH, KOUTAIJIN! YOU'RE BACK. HOW DID OUR LITTLE VENTURE GO?

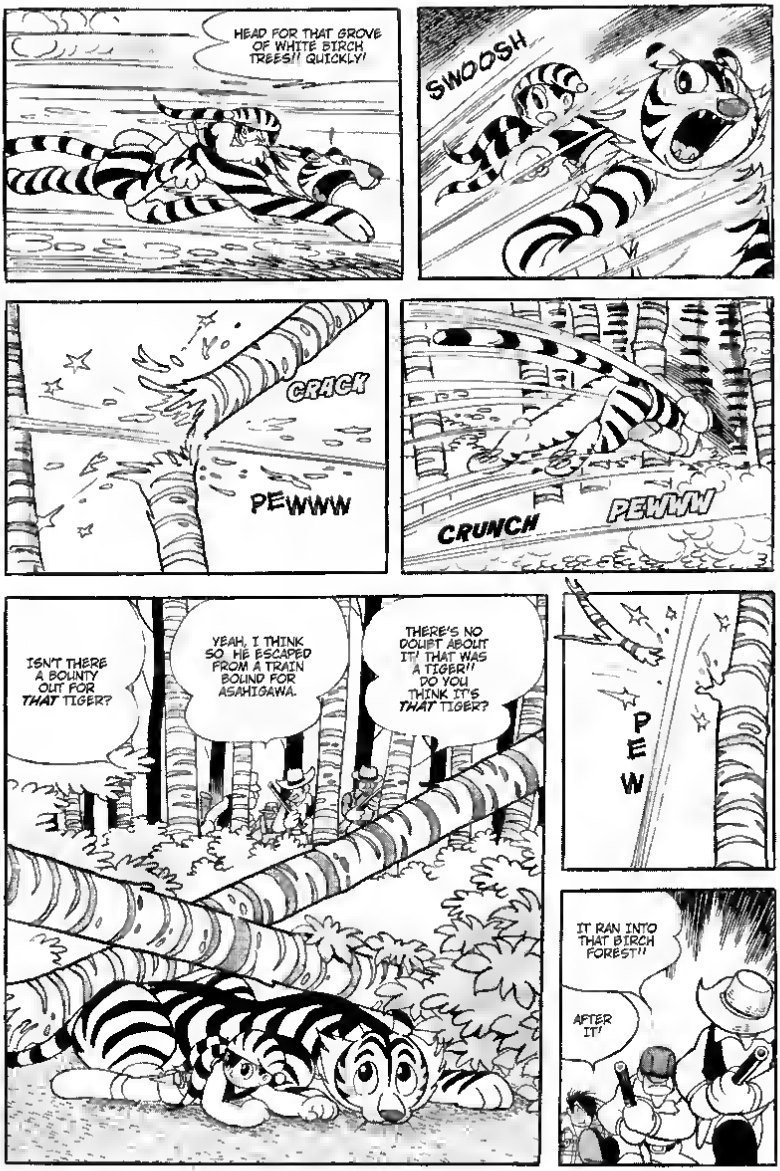
WE DIDN'T MANAGE TO GET THE KEY.
WELL WE DID FIND THE KEEPER OF THE KEY, BUT...
DID YOU MANAGE TO ACQUIRE THE SECOND KEY?
AFTER ALL I WENT THROUGH FINDING OUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE SECOND KEY, AND THEN YOU GO AND BOTCH UP THE PLAN!!
THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, KOUTAIJIN!!
I WANT TO FIND THE LOST TREASURE OF THE AINU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
KOUTAIJIN, I AM NOT DOING THIS SIMPLY TO AMUSE MYSELF.
HEH HEH HEH... IT'S RIGHT HERE.
HOW IS YOUR KEY? IS IT STILL SAFE?
STOP YELLING AT ME!! I KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR TASK!!

IF YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WILL GO BALD
THEN LET US DRINK TO THE HEALTH OF YOUR SCALP
THE ONLY WAY SOMEBODY COULD FIND IT IS IF THEY SCALPED ME!!
HEH HEH HEH!
SLAM
NO, I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING... I WAS JUST WALKING BY
WERE YOU EAVESD-ROPPING?!
PLEASE BELIEVE ME! I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING!!! I SWEAR!!
OUCH!
AHHHH!

NO ONE CAN HEAR OUR PLANS NOT EVEN OUR OWN HENCHMEN...
BANG
BANG
MAKE ME SOME OCTOPUS SOUP!
?
UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE HE HEARD US TALKING, TOO!
AHH!
?
I AGREE
THE BEST WAY TO KEEP A SECRET IS TO KEEP THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE KNOWING IT TO A MINIMUM
NEAR THE BASE OF THIS MOUNTAIN IS A SMALL TOWN LET'S HEAD THERE AND ASK THEM IF THEY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE OWNER OF THAT HELICOPTER

I DON'T THINK I SHOULD GO ANY FURTHER.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAN? WHY DID YOU STOP?
GRRRR
WELL... YOU'RE THE EXCEPTION. YOU'RE MY FRIEND AND WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. I DON'T WANT TO GO PUSHING MY LUCK WITH OTHER HUMANS...
YOU'VE BEEN FINE WITH ME, HAVEN'T YOU? WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME NOW!
I HAVE THIS TENDENCY TO WANT TO KILL HUMANS. I'VE BEEN TREATED VERY POORLY BY THEM IN THE PAST, AND I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO GO NEAR THEM.
LET'S GO THEN. C'MON.
OKAY, KOTAN. I SUPPOSE I COULD TRY
DAN... I PROMISE YOU THAT I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PROTECT YOU AND HELP YOU GET ALONG WITH HUMANS. NOW C'MON, LET'S GET TO THAT TOWN

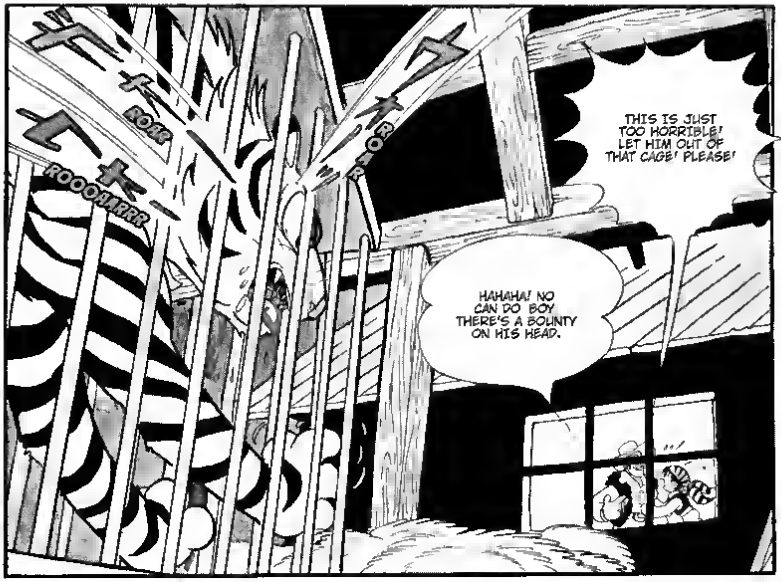
EEEEK!!
MAN, I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE NERVOUS...
THERE'S THE VILLAGE!
HEY!! STOP SHOOTING!! DON'T SHOOT HIM!
SEE?! WHAT DID I TELL YOU, KOTAN?! IT'S JUST LIKE HOW I SAID IT WOULD BE
BOOM
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
PEW
PEW
PEW


HEAD FOR THAT GROVE OF WHITE BIRCH TREES!! QUICKLY!
SWOOSH
CRACK
PEWWW
CRUNCH
PEWWW
ISN'T THERE A BOUNTY OUT FOR THAT TIGER?
YEAH, I THINK SO. HE ESCAPED FROM A TRAIN BOUND FOR ASAHIGAWA.
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THAT WAS A TIGER!! DO YOU THINK IT'S THAT TIGER?
PEW
IT RAN INTO THAT BIRCH FOREST!!
AFTER IT!

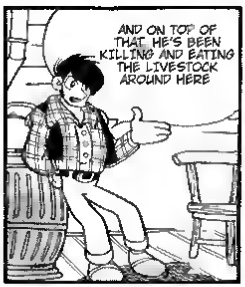
DAN! IF YOU GO OUT NOW, THEY WILL SHOOT YOU!! YOU HAVE TO STAY STILL!
GRR!
PEWWW
DAMN TIGER! GET OUT HERE!
BANG
BANG
BANG
NO, THIS IS ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING THEY THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE GOING TO START KILLING PEOPLE
I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN! IT ALWAYS DOES WITH HUMANS I SHOULD'VE NEVER HEADED DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN
I'M GOING!
NO, IT'S BEST IF I JUST GO BACK THE MOUNTAIN
I'LL GO TALK TO THEM AND SMOOTH THIS WHOLE THING OUT
HUMANS ARE MY ENEMY! HOW COULD I EVER GO AROUND HUMANS AGAIN?! HUMANS ARE CRUEL...
DAN!!

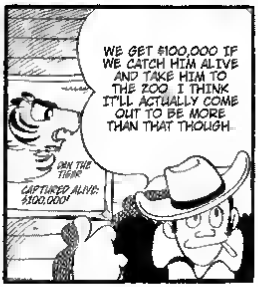
HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE HUMAN WORLD .
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU!
COULD THIS BE KARMA? DID I DO SOMETHING TO DESERVE THIS.....?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?!
THIS TIGER WILL NEITHER BITE NOR ATTACK YOU! HE'S MY FRIEND AND WILL LISTEN TO ME! PLEASE, DON'T HURT US!
PURR
OH THANK YOU, DAN! YOU'RE MY FAVORITE TIGER!
PLEASE DON'T SHOOT!

WILL YOU PROMISE NOT TO SHOOT THE TIGER?
ALL RIGHT. COME OUT THEN.
NO. I CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN WITH THE TIGER.
BOY?! WEREN'T YOU ATTACKED AND BROUGHT HERE BY THE TIGER?
COME ON
OKAY, WE PROMISE NOT TO SHOOT NOW COME ON OUT
DAN, IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
YOU LIED TO ME!! WHY WOULD YOU PUT DOWN SUCH A TRAP?!
ACK!!
ROOOAR
SNAP
ガチャン!
WE PROMISED NOT TO SHOOT. WE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT TRAPS

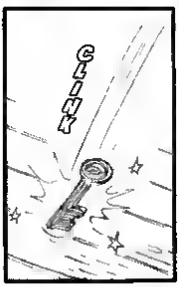

BOMP
ROOOMMRR
THIS IS JUST TOO HORRIBLE! LET HIM OUT OF THAT CAGE! PLEASE!
HAHAHA! NO CAN DO BOY THERE'S A BOUNTY ON HIS HEAD.

DAN HASN'T EATEN ANY LIVESTOCK!! IT WAS PROBABLY WILD DOGS!


AND ON TOP OF THAT HE'S BEEN KILLING AND EATING THE LIVESTOCK AROUND HERE


WE GET $100,000 IF WE CATCH HIM ALIVE AND TAKE HIM TO THE ZOO I THINK IT'LL ACTUALLY COME OUT TO BE MORE THAN THAT THOUGH
DAN THE TIGER
CAPTURED ALIVE: $100,000!

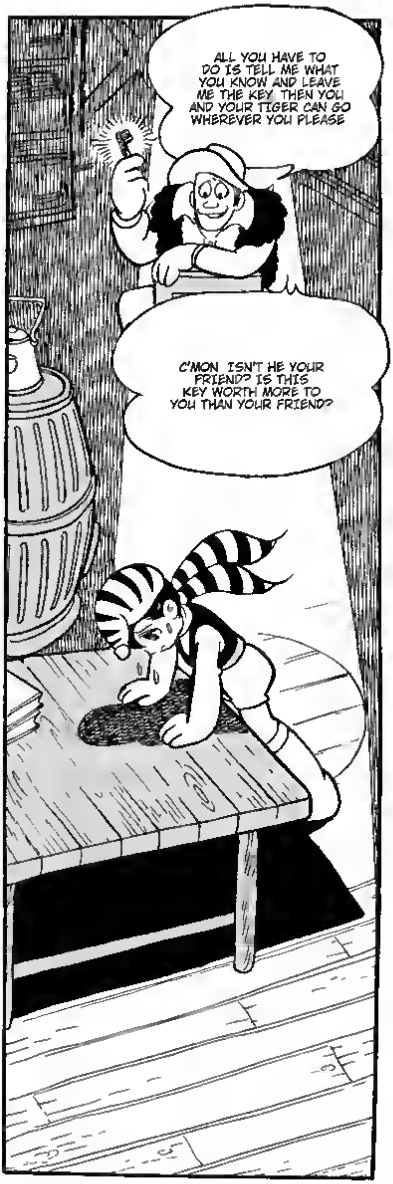
HMM?

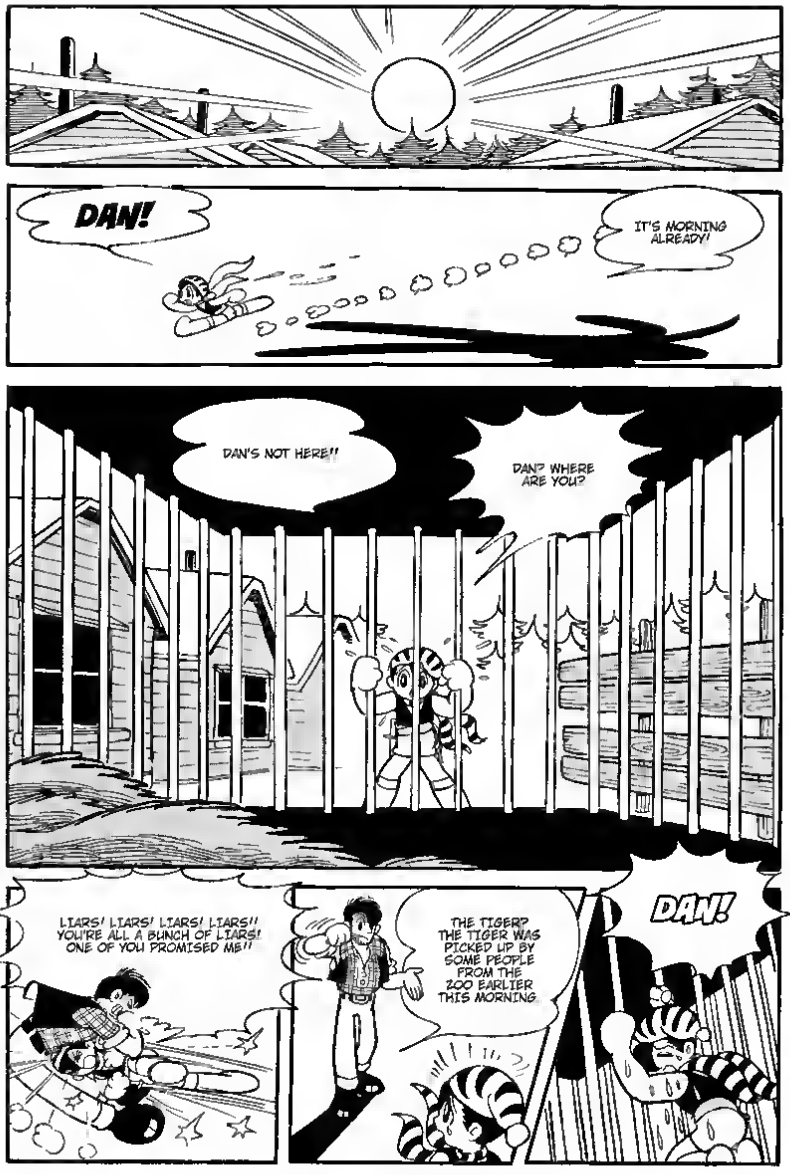

CLINK

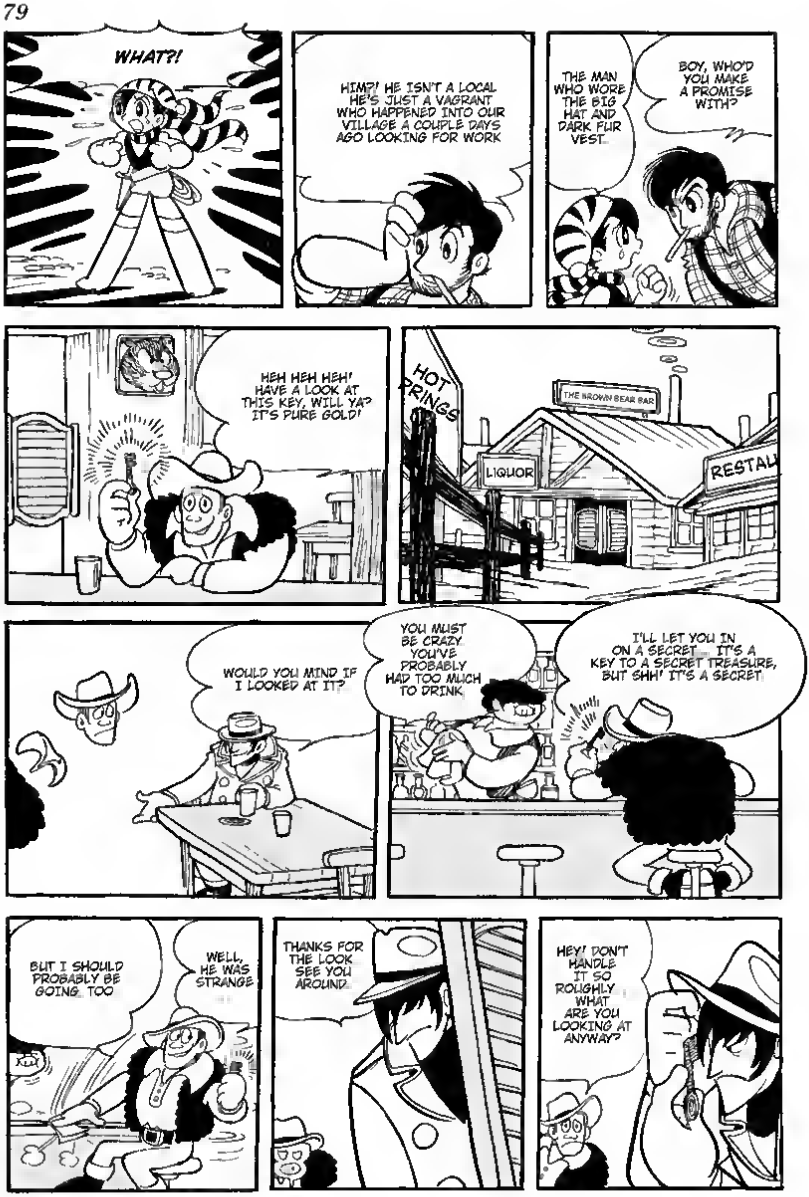
WELL... THERE'S NO PROOF EITHER WAY... AND NOW THAT WE'VE CAUGHT HIM THERE'S NO WAY THAT WE CAN JUST LET HIM GO
LIAR!! YOU'RE ALL LIARS!!

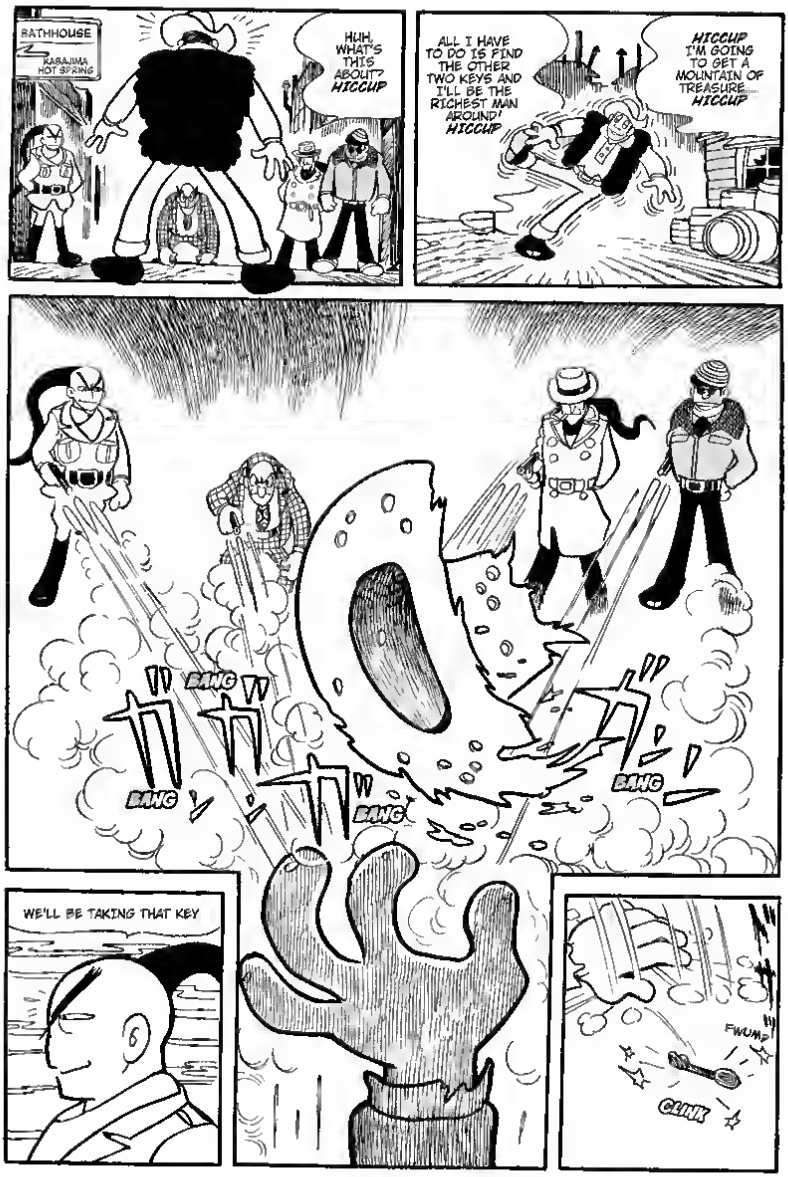
AH!
BOY, YOU DROPPED YOUR KEY.
A... GOLD KEY!!
OH, JUST WAIT A MOMENT IT CAN'T HURT FOR ME TO JUST LOOK AT IT A LITTLE BIT, CAN IT?
GIVE IT BACK!!
TELL ME WHAT THIS KEY UNLOCKS!!
THIS LOOKS LIKE IT WAS MADE BY THE AINU PEOPLE... NOW I WONDER WHAT THIS KEY COULD POSSIBLY UNLOCK...
WELL, THEN HOW ABOUT THIS IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS KEY AND WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, I'LL LET THAT TIGER OUT OF ITS CAGE. HMM? HOW ABOUT IT?
UWL
I CAN'T! IT'S A SECRET!
C'MON, BE A GOOD BOY AND TELL ME WHAT THE STORY IS BEHIND THIS KEY...

O-OKAY, I'LL TELL YOU...
BUT YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO LET DAN OUT FROM THE CAGE FIRST THING TOMORROW.
THIS IS A SOLEMN PROMISE BETWEEN MEN, YOU CANNOT GO BACK ON IT
OKAY, OKAY I PROMISE
HAVE SOME FAITH IN YOUR ELDERS
NOW, WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THIS KEY? TELL ME!

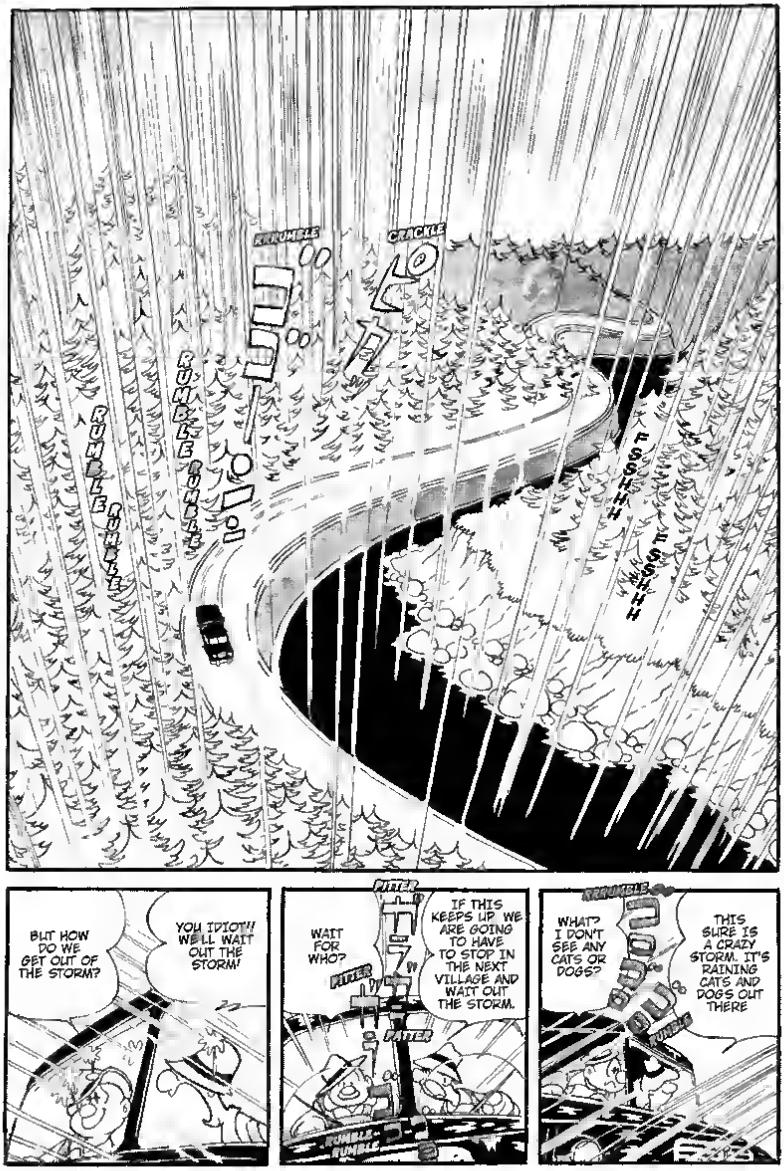

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW AND LEAVE ME THE KEY. THEN YOU AND YOUR TIGER CAN GO WHEREVER YOU PLEASE
C'MON, ISN'T HE YOUR FRIEND? IS THIS KEY WORTH MORE TO YOU THAN YOUR FRIEND?


DAN!
IT'S MORNING ALREADY!
DAN'S NOT HERE!!
DAN? WHERE ARE YOU?
LIARS! LIARS! LIARS! LIARS!! YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF LIARS! ONE OF YOU PROMISED ME!!
THE TIGER? THE TIGER WAS PICKED UP BY SOME PEOPLE FROM THE ZOO EARLIER THIS MORNING.
DAN!

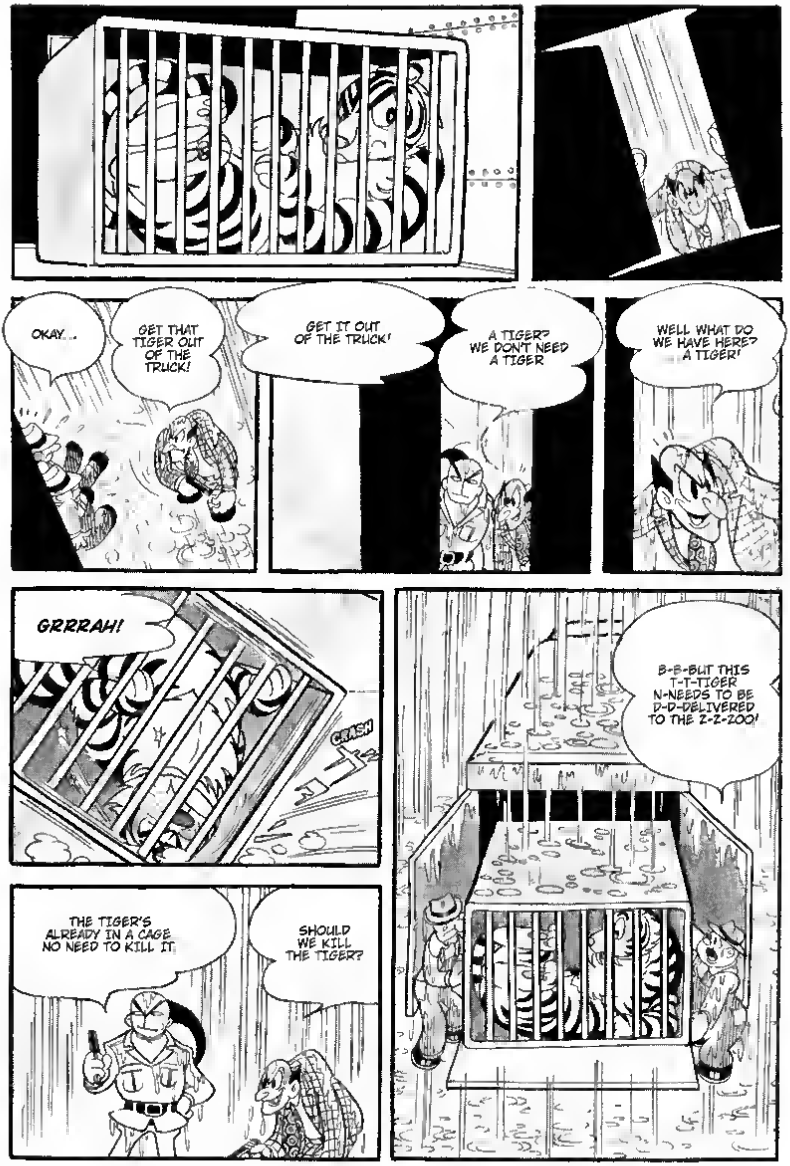

WHAT?!
HIM?! HE ISN'T A LOCAL. HE'S JUST A VAGRANT WHO HAPPENED INTO OUR VILLAGE A COUPLE DAYS AGO LOOKING FOR WORK
THE MAN WHO WORE THE BIG HAT AND DARK FUR VEST.
BOY, WHO'D YOU MAKE A PROMISE WITH?
HEH HEH HEH! HAVE A LOOK AT THIS KEY, WILL YA? IT'S PURE GOLD!
HOT SPRINGS
THE BROWN BEAR BAR
LIQUOR
RESTAU
WOULD YOU MIND IF I LOOKED AT IT?
YOU MUST BE CRAZY. YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
I'LL LET YOU IN ON A SECRET... IT'S A KEY TO A SECRET TREASURE, BUT SHH! IT'S A SECRET.
BUT I SHOULD PROBABLY BE GOING, TOO.
WELL, HE WAS STRANGE.
YAWN
THANKS FOR THE LOOK. SEE YOU AROUND.
HEY! DON'T HANDLE IT SO ROUGHLY. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT ANYWAY?

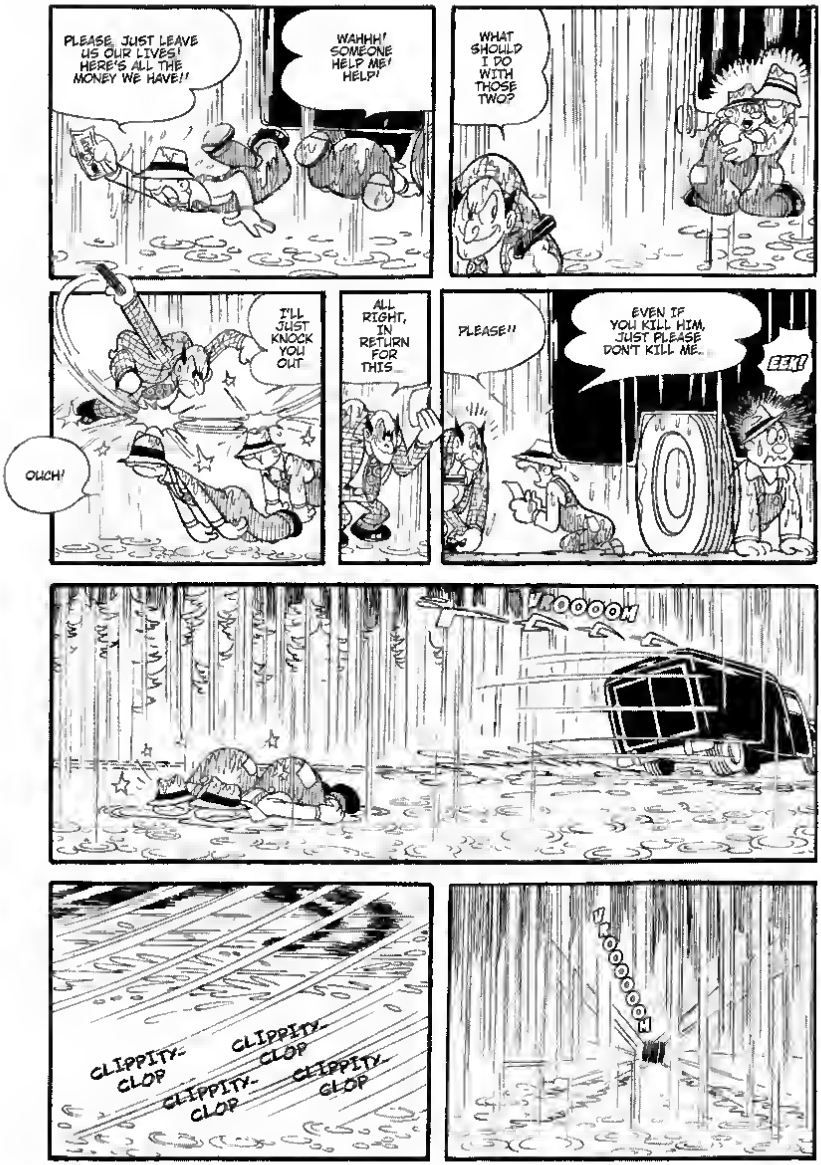

BATHHOUSE
KABAJIMA HOT SPRING
HUH, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? HICCUP
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE OTHER TWO KEYS AND I'LL BE THE RICHEST MAN AROUND! HICCUP
HICCUP I'M GOING TO GET A MOUNTAIN OF TREASURE HICCUP
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
WE'LL BE TAKING THAT KEY
FWUMP
CLUNK

CHAPTER 2
KOUSETSUKOKU


RRUMBLE
CRACKLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE
FSSHHH
FSSHHH
BUT HOW DO WE GET OUT OF THE STORM?
YOU IDIOT! WE'LL WAIT OUT THE STORM!
WAIT FOR WHO?
IF THIS KEEPS UP WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP IN THE NEXT VILLAGE AND WAIT OUT THE STORM.
RRUMBLE
WHAT? I DON'T SEE ANY CATS OR DOGS?
THIS SURE IS A CRAZY STORM. IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS OUT THERE

ACK!
HEY, WATCH OUT! THERE'S SOMEBODY IN THE ROAD!!
AT LEAST I GOT PAID WELL THIS TIME FOR PUTTING UP WITH YOU. $10,000 JUST FOR TRANSPORTING A TIGER!
GET OUT OF THE VEHICLE!!
HEY, DON'T JUMP OUT IN FRONT OF A CAR LIKE THAT! IT'S DANGEROUS. DO YOU GUYS NEED A RIDE OR SOMETHING?
RIGHT AWAY
CHECK THE BACK! SEE WHAT THEY'RE TRANSPORTING!
WE WERE IN A BIT OF A BIND, YOU SEE... SINCE OUR HELICOPTER CAN'T FLY IN THIS WEATHER THAT IS... UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG
WE'LL BE TAKING YOUR TRUCK


OKAY...
GET THAT TIGER OUT OF THE TRUCK!
GET IT OUT OF THE TRUCK!
A TIGER? WE DON'T NEED A TIGER
WELL WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? A TIGER!
GRRRAH!
CRASH
B-B-BUT THIS T-T-TIGER N-NEEDS TO BE D-D-DELIVERED TO THE Z-Z-ZOO!
THE TIGER'S ALREADY IN A CAGE NO NEED TO KILL IT.
SHOULD WE KILL THE TIGER?

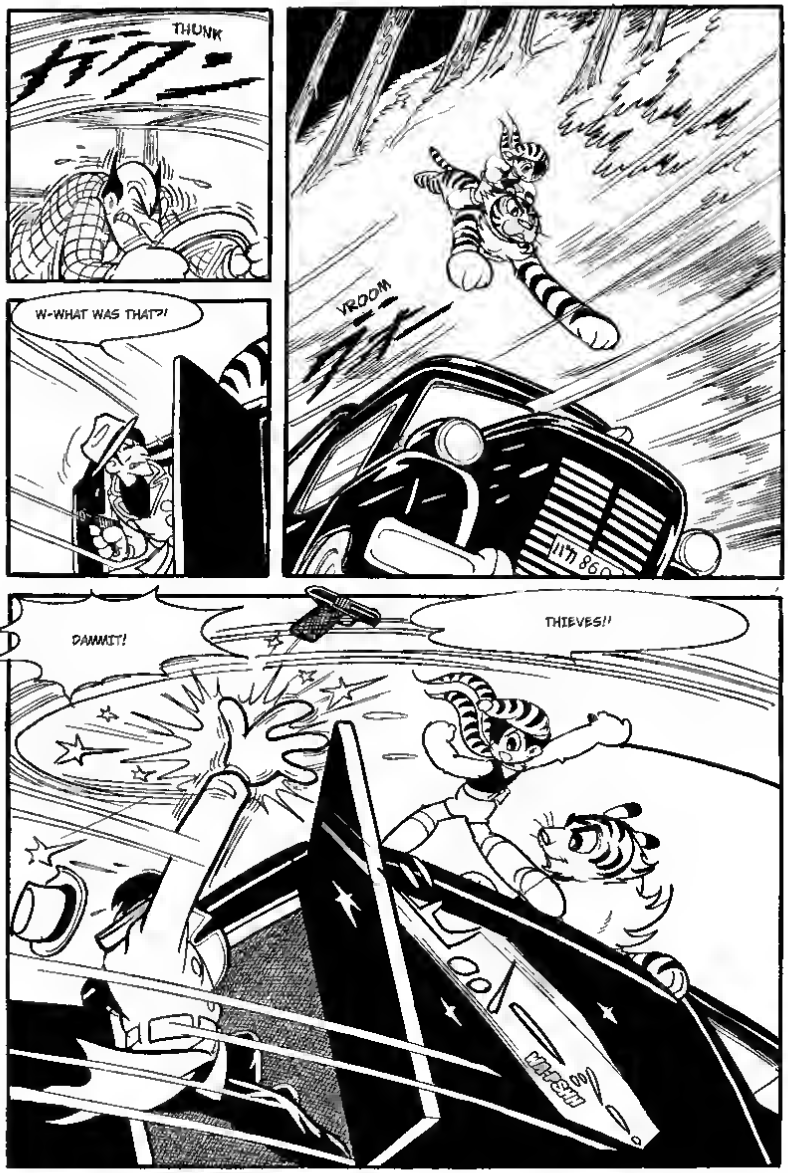

PLEASE, JUST LEAVE US OUR LIVES! HERE'S ALL THE MONEY WE HAVE!!
WAHHH! SOMEONE HELP ME! HELP!
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THOSE TWO?
I'LL JUST KNOCK YOU OUT
OUCH!
ALL RIGHT, IN RETURN FOR THIS...
PLEASE!!
EVEN IF YOU KILL HIM, JUST PLEASE DON'T KILL ME..
EEK!
VOOOOM
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
VOOOOOOOM

CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
SKITCH
ROOOOAR
ROOOOAR
HUH?!
DAN!!
ROOOAR
DAN!!
THAT'S MY LINE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M SO SORRY, DAN! I TRIED TO HELP YOU, BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT I WAS JUST TRICKED. I'M SO GLAD THAT WE MADE IT HERE IN TIME
THAT'S ALSO MY LINE!!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

THREE MEN STOLE OUR TRUCK AND ALL OF OUR MONEY.
WHO DID? WHAT DID THEY TAKE?
WAAAA! BOO HOO HOO! THEY TOOK ALL OF IT!!
YUP, AND I RECOGNIZED THEIR SCENTS AS WELL.
DAN, DID YOU SEE WHO TOOK THE VEHICLE?
GOD DAMN IT! GIVE ME THE MONEY BACK!
QUICKLY DAN AFTER THAT CAR! WE'LL CATCH THOSE THIEVES!!
WHAT? IT WAS THE CHINESE LOOKING MAN WITH THE LONG HAIR?
HEY, DON'T DO IT! THEY'RE DANGEROUS!!
WHAT?
QUICKLY, I NEED YOU TO OPEN DAN'S CAGE RIGHT NOW!

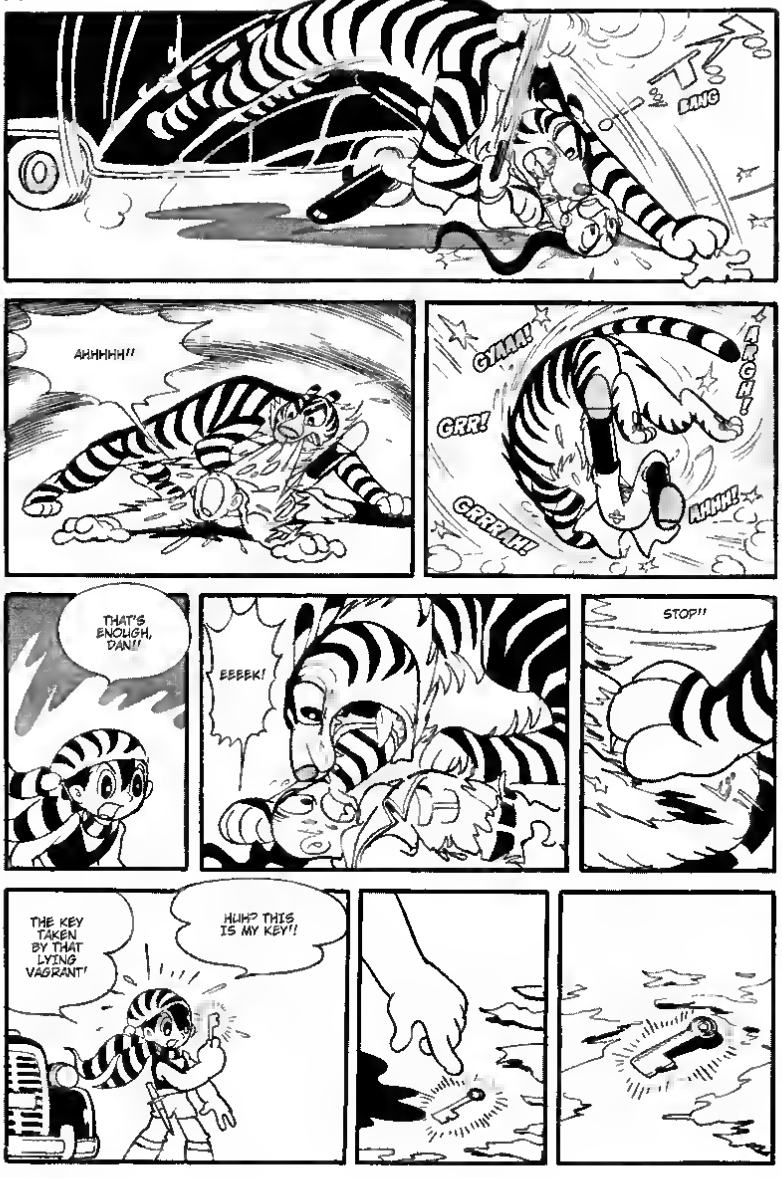
LET'S TAKE A SHORTCUT!
HIII-YA!
WHOOSH
THERE THEY ARE!!
BY GOING OVER THIS HILL, WE'LL CUT OFF A LARGE PORTION OF THE ROAD!

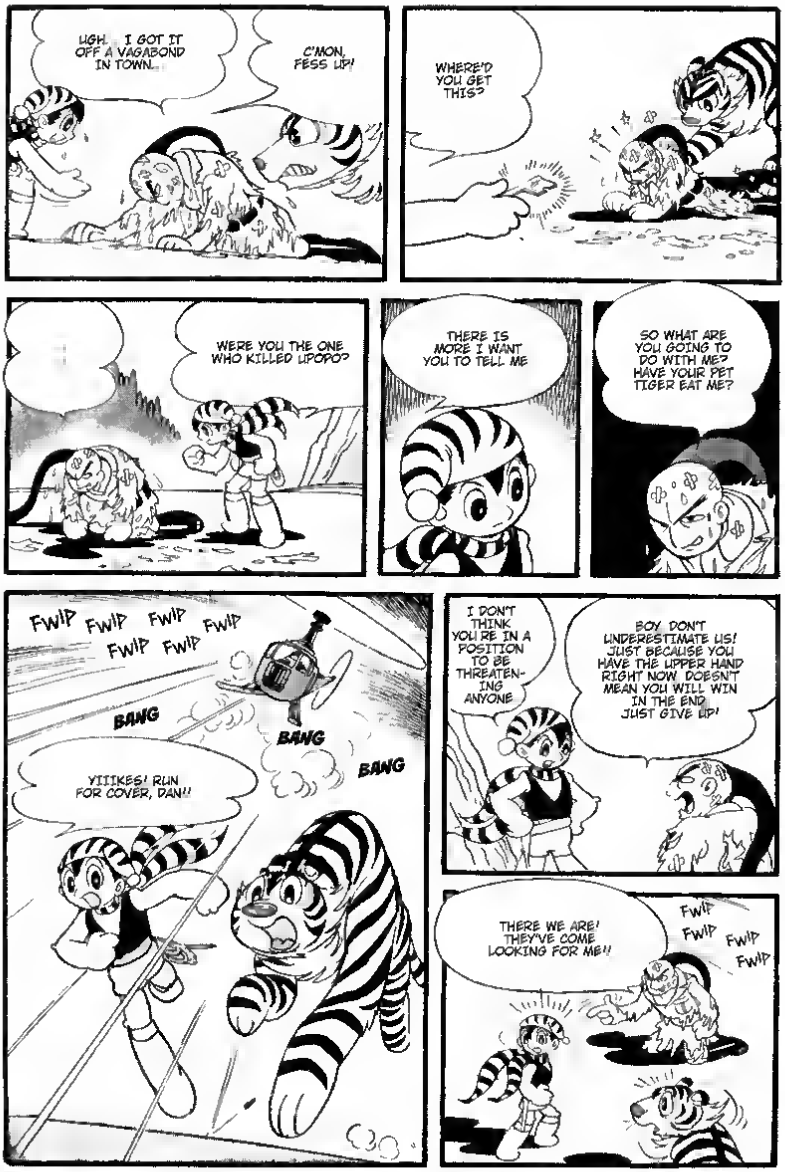
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT WE'D ACQUIRE THE SECOND KEY SO EASILY
HEH HEH HEH!
YOUR LUCK HAS REALLY MADE THIS A LOT EASIER FOR US. HOPEFULLY IT CONTINUES.
IF THINGS KEEP UP LIKE THIS, WE'LL HAVE THE THIRD KEY IN OUR HANDS IN NO TIME.
LET'S GO!!
LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN HAS LET UP.
KEEP DRIVING. WE'RE MAKING GOOD TIME.

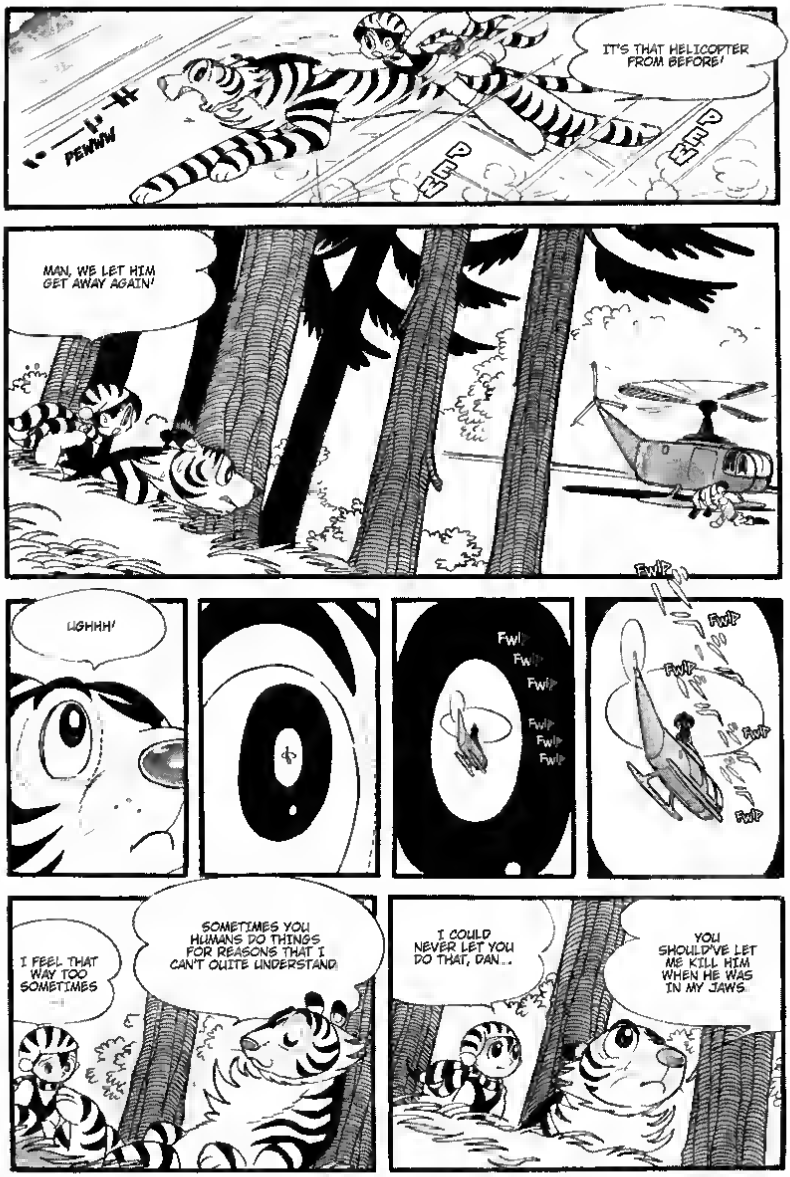

THUNK
W-WHAT WAS THAT?!
VROOM
DAMMIT!
THIEVES!!
GO
MEOW

SLAM THE BREAKS THAT SHOULD KNOCK THE TIGER OFF AND GIVE US THE UPPER HAND.
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THAT TIGER FROM BEFORE HAS CAUGHT UP TO US?
WHOA! A TIGER!!
VERRRRM
SCREEECH
THAT'LL TEACH YA!! HAHAHA!
GOWK

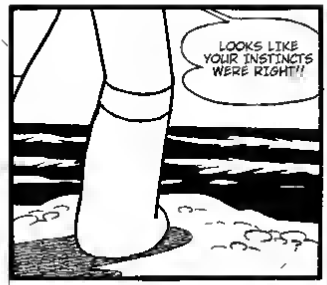
NOT SO FAST!!
WA-PSHHHH
AHHH!!
SPLASH
SMACK
BOY...
EEEEP!!
ROOOAR


BANG
AHHHHH!!
GYAAA!!
ARGH!
GRR!
AHHH!!
GRRRR!!
THAT'S ENOUGH, DAN!!
EEEEK!
STOP!!
THE KEY TAKEN BY THAT LYING VAGRANT!
HUH? THIS IS MY KEY?!

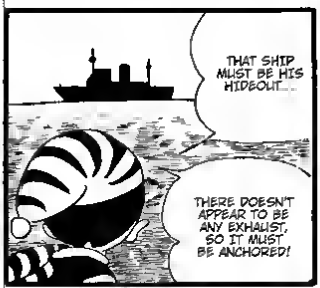

UGH... I GOT IT OFF A VAGABOND IN TOWN...
C'MON, FESS UP!
WHERE'D YOU GET THIS?
WERE YOU THE ONE WHO KILLED UPOPO?
THERE IS MORE I WANT YOU TO TELL ME
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME? HAVE YOUR PET TIGER EAT ME?
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
BANG
BANG
BANG
YIIIKES! RUN FOR COVER, DAN!!
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO BE THREATENING ANYONE
BOY DON'T UNDERESTIMATE US! JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE UPPER HAND RIGHT NOW DOESN'T MEAN YOU WILL WIN IN THE END! JUST GIVE UP!
THERE WE ARE! THEY'VE COME LOOKING FOR ME!!
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP


IT'S THAT HELICOPTER FROM BEFORE!
PEWWW
MAN, WE LET HIM GET AWAY AGAIN!
UGHHH!
Fwip
SOMETIMES YOU HUMANS DO THINGS FOR REASONS THAT I CAN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND.
I FEEL THAT WAY TOO SOMETIMES
I COULD NEVER LET YOU DO THAT, DAN...
YOU SHOULD'VE LET ME KILL HIM WHEN HE WAS IN MY JAWS.

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL NOW. WHAT I WANT TO DO MOST RIGHT NOW IS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THAT MAN
NO MORE TOWNS, KOTAN! PLEASE! I'LL GO ANYWHERE ELSE, BUT TOWNS ARE TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME
LET'S GO TO THE OCEAN!!
ALL RIGHT, DAN. WE'LL FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS THIS TIME!
THAT FLYING DEVICE WENT IN THE DIRECTION OF WHERE MY SENSES TELL ME THERE'S AN OCEAN. WE COULD HEAD THAT WAY AND HOPEFULLY FIND OUT WHERE IT'S GOING.
LET'S FIND OUT WHERE THAT HELICOPTER KEEPS COMING FROM!!

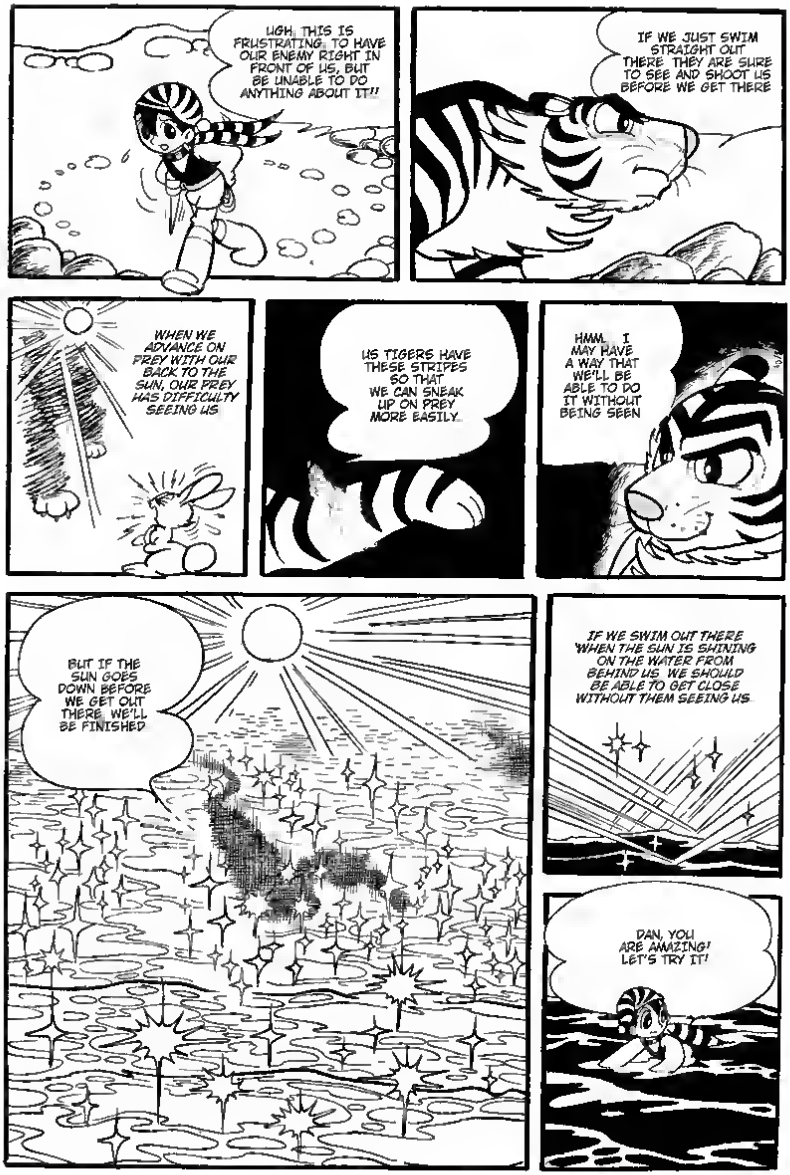

LOOKS LIKE YOUR INSTINCTS WERE RIGHT!!

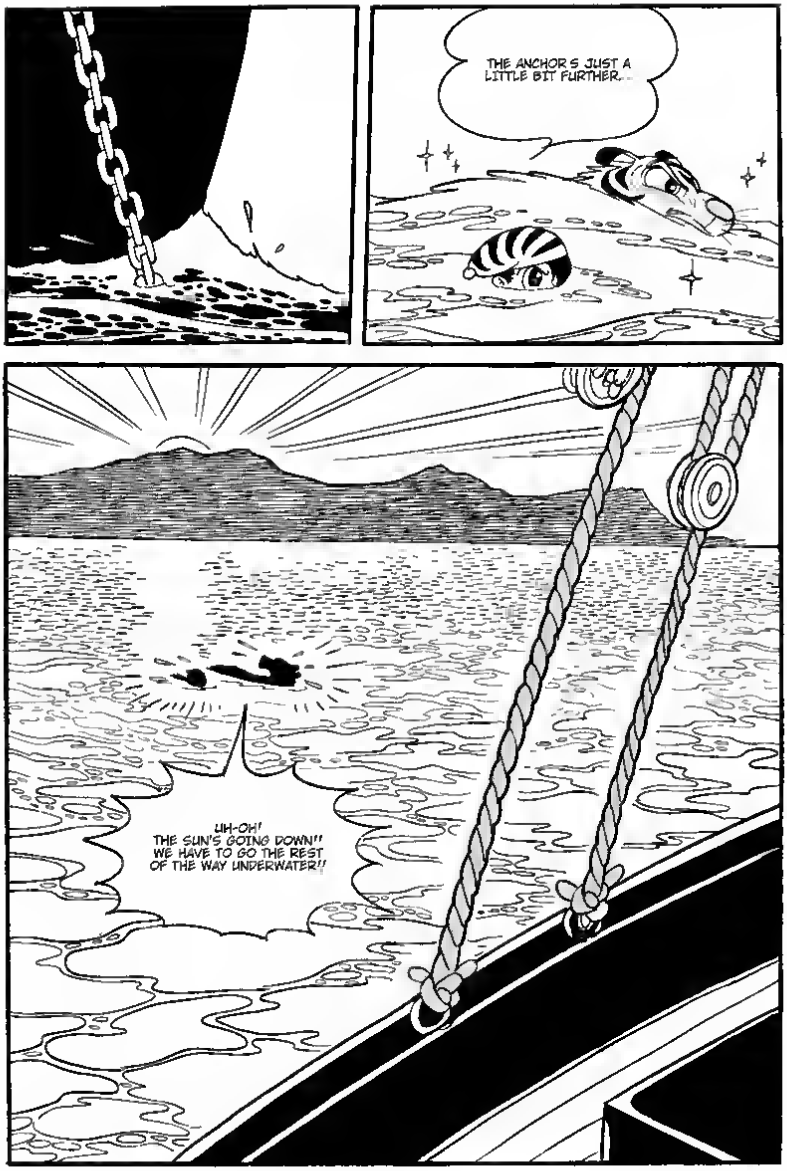
THE HELICOPTER LANDED ON THAT SHIP OUT THERE


THAT SHIP MUST BE HIS HIDEOUT...
THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY EXHAUST, SO IT MUST BE ANCHORED!

DAN, CAN YOU SWIM THAT FAR?
I CAN, BUT IT WOULD BE DANGER-OUS

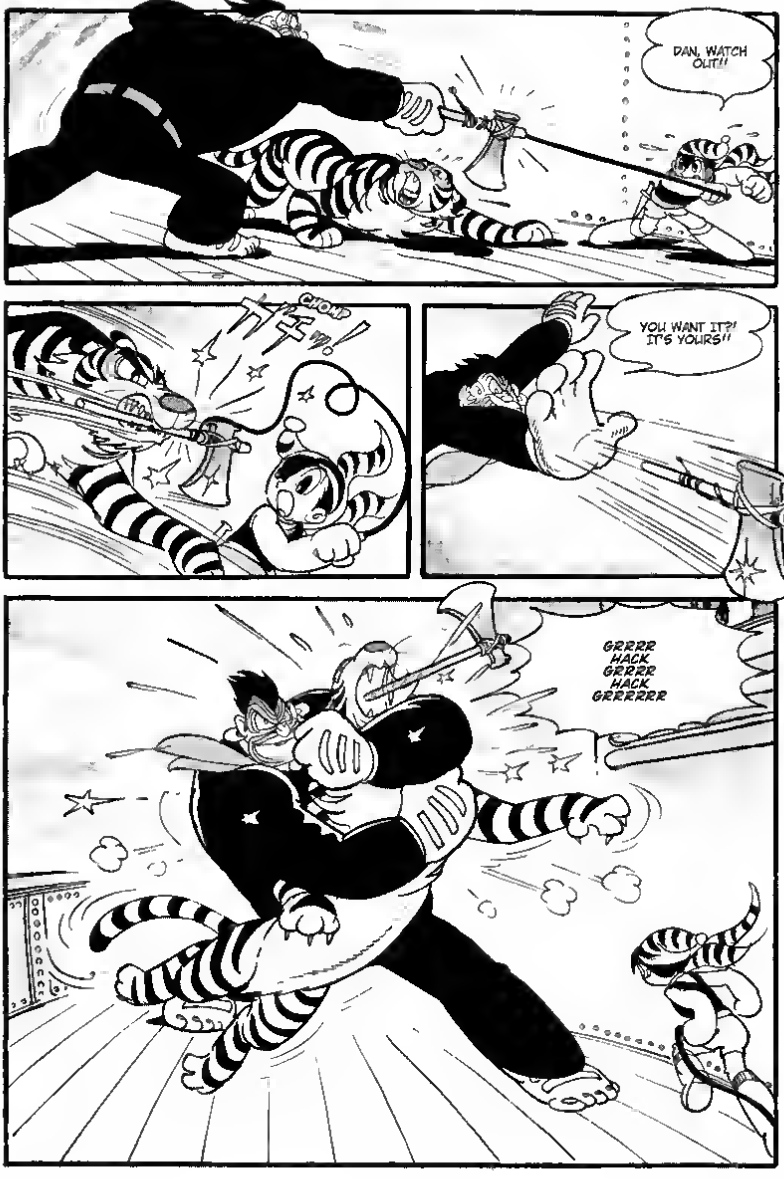
THE OCEAN!!


UGH. THIS IS FRUSTRATING. TO HAVE OUR ENEMY RIGHT IN FRONT OF US, BUT BE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!!
IF WE JUST SWIM STRAIGHT OUT THERE. THEY ARE SURE TO SEE AND SHOOT US BEFORE WE GET THERE
WHEN WE ADVANCE ON PREY WITH OUR BACK TO THE SUN, OUR PREY HAS DIFFICULTY SEEING US.
US TIGERS HAVE THESE STRIPES SO THAT WE CAN SNEAK UP ON PREY MORE EASILY.
HMM. I MAY HAVE A WAY THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT BEING SEEN
BUT IF THE SUN GOES DOWN BEFORE WE GET OUT THERE, WE'LL BE FINISHED
IF WE SWIM OUT THERE WHEN THE SUN IS SHINING ON THE WATER FROM BEHIND US, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET CLOSE WITHOUT THEM SEEING US.
DAN, YOU ARE AMAZING! LET'S TRY IT!


THE ANCHOR'S JUST A LITTLE BIT FURTHER...
UH-OH! THE SUN'S GOING DOWN!! WE HAVE TO GO THE REST OF THE WAY UNDERWATER!!

I'M PRETTY SURE NOBODY SAW US.
NOW CLIMB THE CHAIN.
ALL RIGHT! WE GOT ON BOARD.
WAIT! SHH!! SOME-ONE'S COMING.
DAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

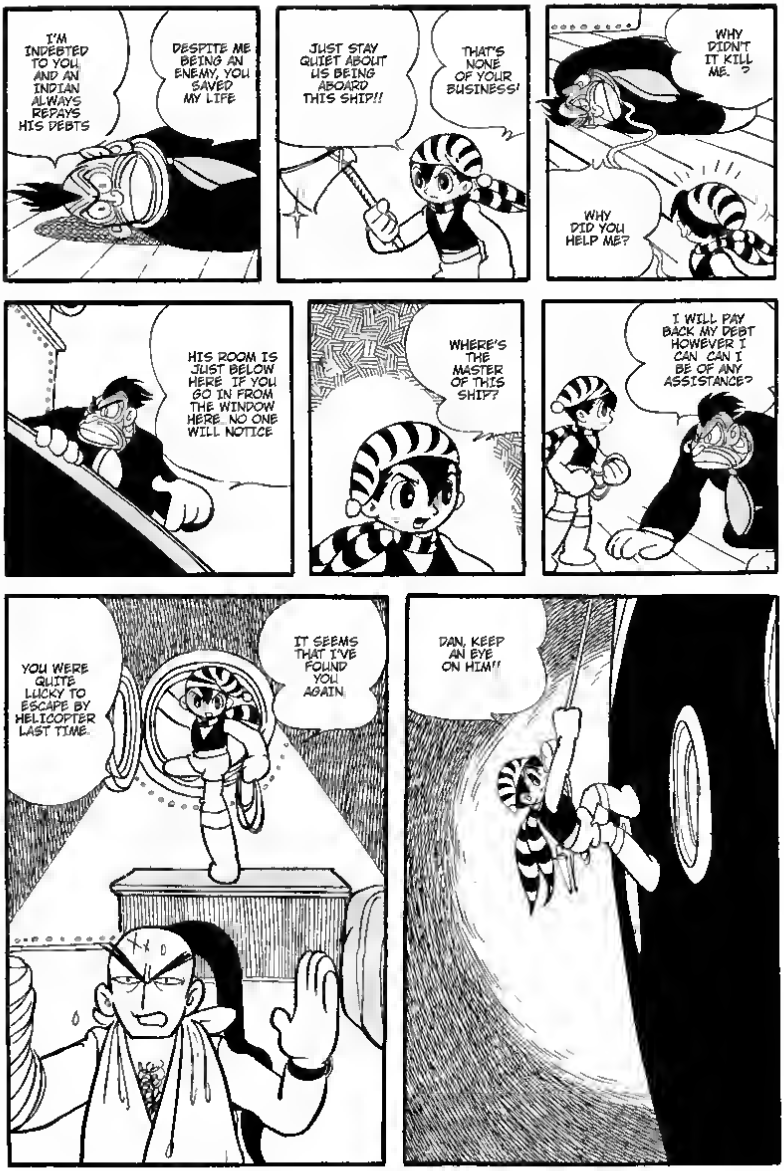
DAN!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! NO, YOU CAN'T GO OUT THERE!
PURRRR
FLOP
ACK!
PURR PURR PURR
GOT YA!!
OH NO, IT'S CATNIP!!
MMMPH!!

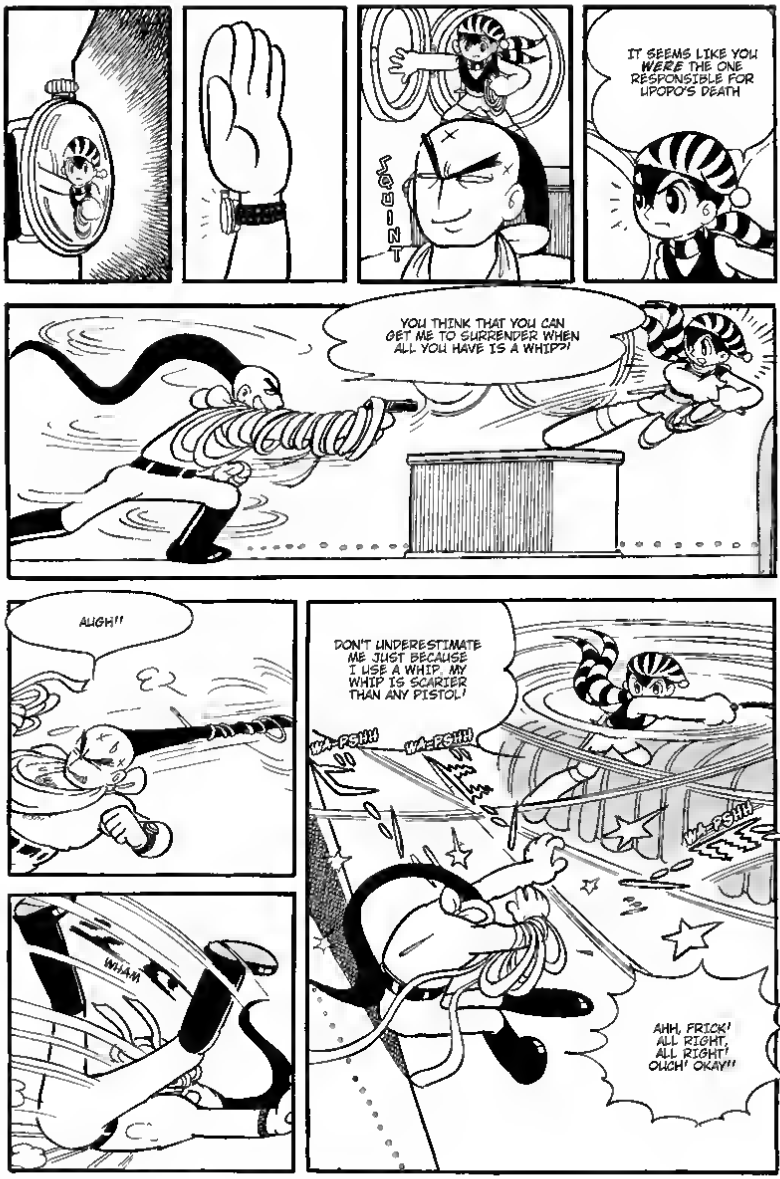

DAN, WATCH OUT!!
CHOMP
YOU WANT IT?! IT'S YOURS!!
GRRRR HACK GRRRR HACK GRRRRRR

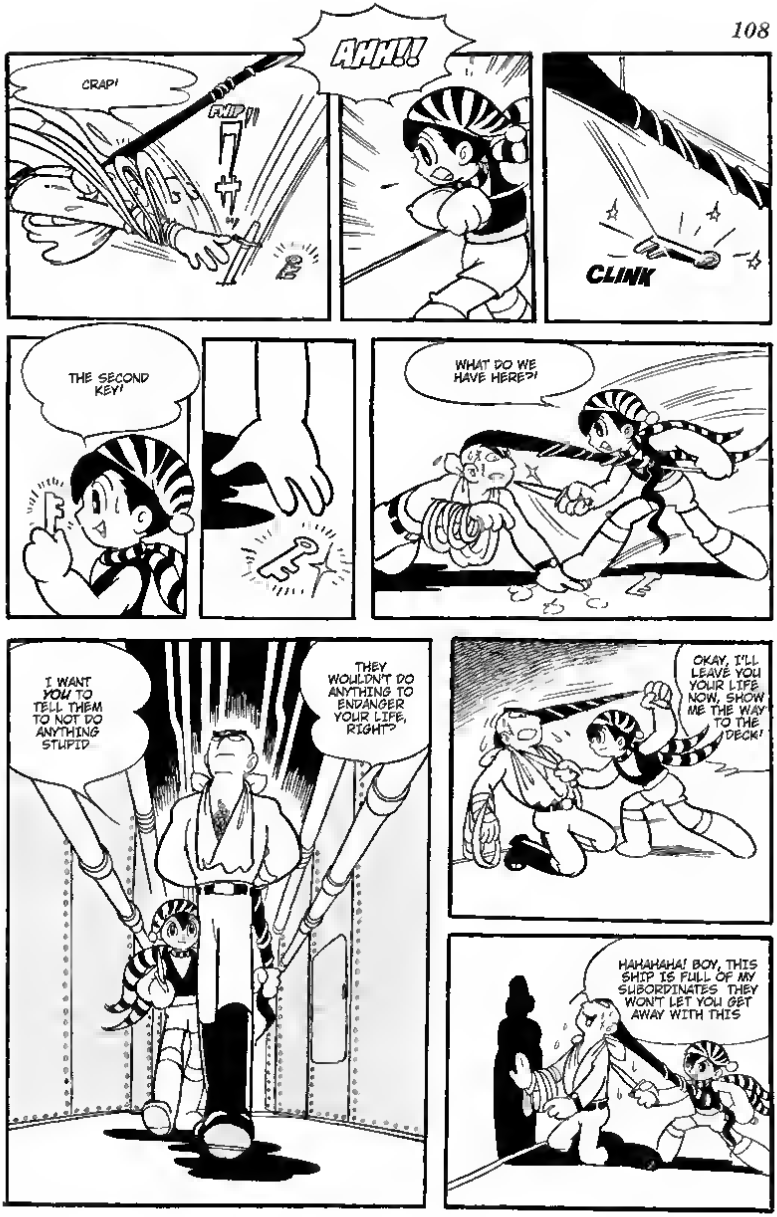
OO
THUNK
WHACK
TO HAVE HIS HEAD BASHED THAT MUCH AND STILL BE CONSCIOUS!!
WHOA... HE MUST HAVE AN IRON HEAD
?!
?!
ROAR

HAAP
WA-PSHH
GYAAA!
UGHHH!!
ROAR
DAN, GRAB THE OTHER END AND PULL!!
STEADY! STEADY! DON'T LET HIM WIGGLE OUT!!

FINALLY, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S PASSED OUT...
THERE WE GO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE, DAN!
YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME AGAIN?! HE'S STILL ALIVE YOU KNOW!!
DON'T KILL HIM!
DAN!!
KOTAN, STAY OUT OF MY WAY AND LET ME DO IT.
IN BATTLE, IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED IF WE LEAVE HIM ALIVE IT WILL LEAD TO OUR OWN DEATHS
IT'S A LAW OF THE TIGERS...
WHATEVER WE DO, I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE.
FINE. I GET IT. BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR
IF THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, THEN WHY NOT JUST START WITH ME?! HMM?! GO AHEAD!
DO TIGERS REALLY WANT TO KILL PEOPLE *THAT* MUCH?!

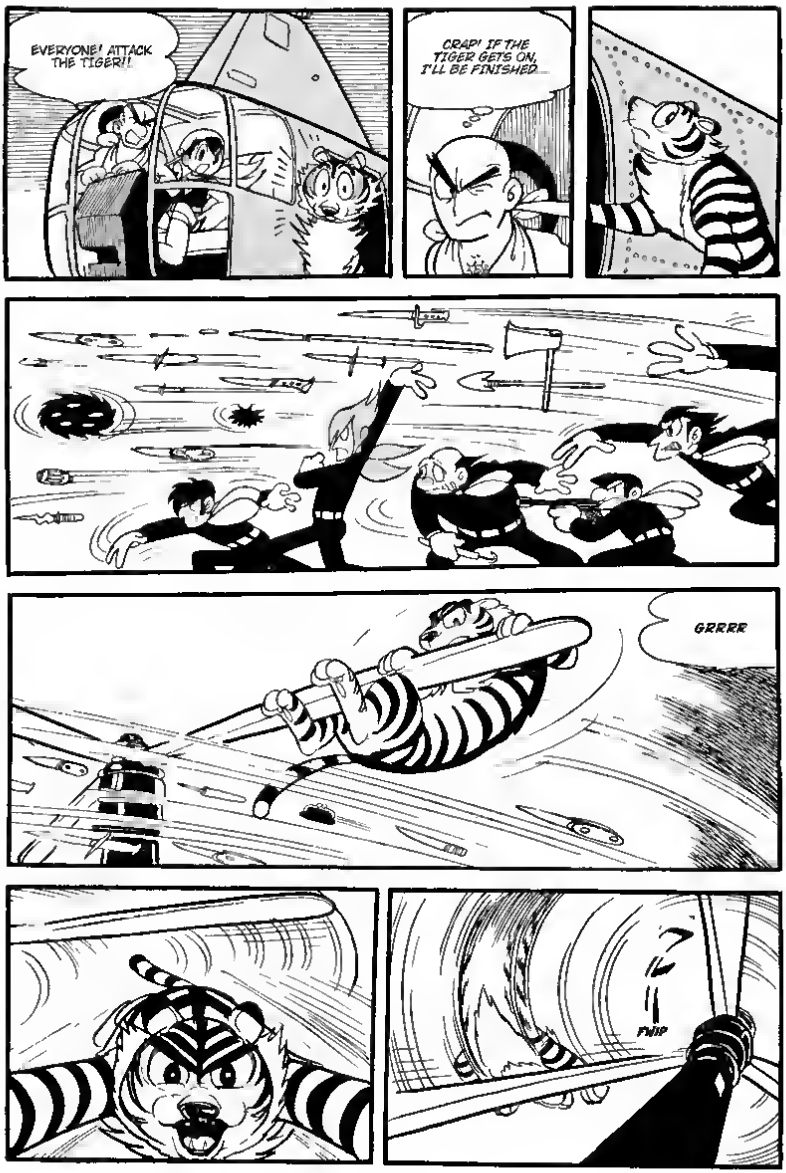

I'M INDEBTED TO YOU, AND AN INDIAN ALWAYS REPAYS HIS DEBTS
DESPITE ME BEING AN ENEMY, YOU SAVED MY LIFE
JUST STAY QUIET ABOUT US BEING ABOARD THIS SHIP!!
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
WHY DIDN'T IT KILL ME...?
WHY DID YOU HELP ME?
HIS ROOM IS JUST BELOW HERE. IF YOU GO IN FROM THE WINDOW HERE, NO ONE WILL NOTICE
WHERE'S THE MASTER OF THIS SHIP?
I WILL PAY BACK MY DEBT HOWEVER I CAN. CAN I BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE?
YOU WERE QUITE LUCKY TO ESCAPE BY HELICOPTER LAST TIME.
IT SEEMS THAT I'VE FOUND YOU AGAIN.
DAN, KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!!

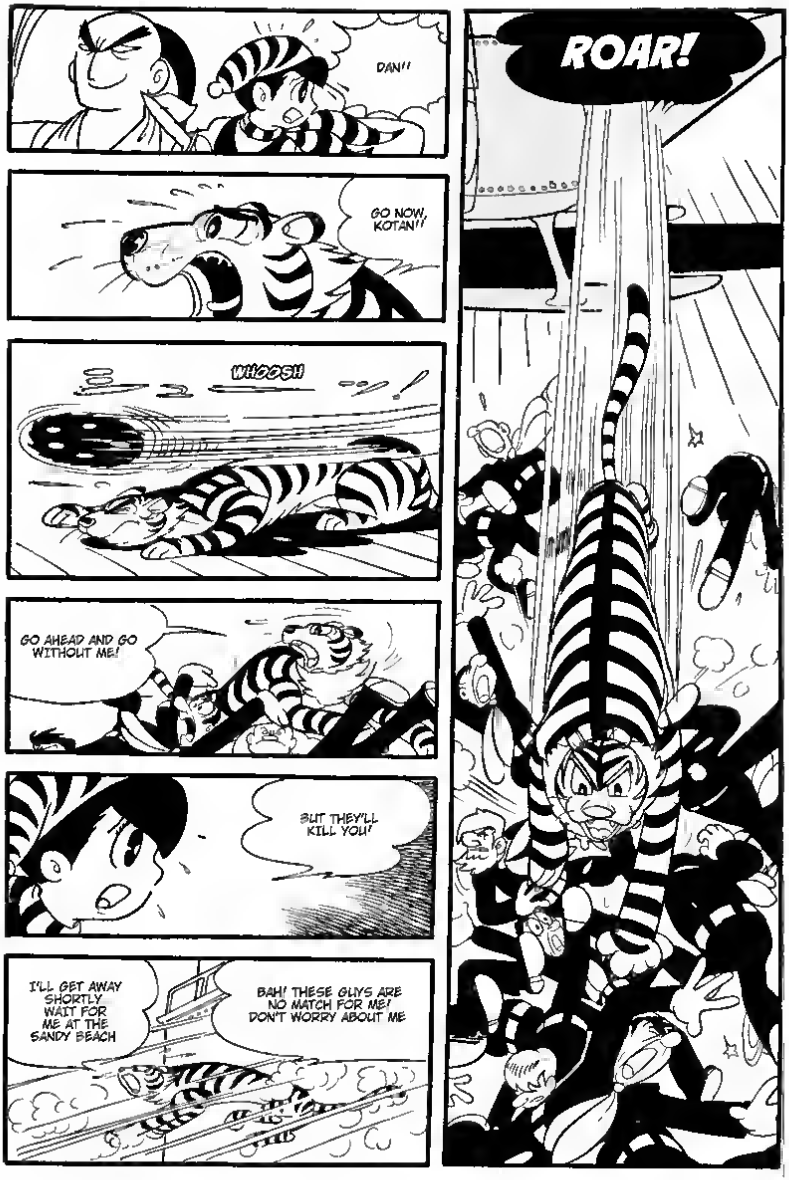

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU WERE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIPOPO'S DEATH
LOOM
YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN GET ME TO SURRENDER WHEN ALL YOU HAVE IS A WHIP?!
ALIGH!!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME JUST BECAUSE I USE A WHIP. MY WHIP IS SCARIER THAN ANY PISTOL!
WA-PSHH
WA-PSHH
WA-PSHH
WHAM
AHH, FRICK! ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! OUCH! OKAY!!

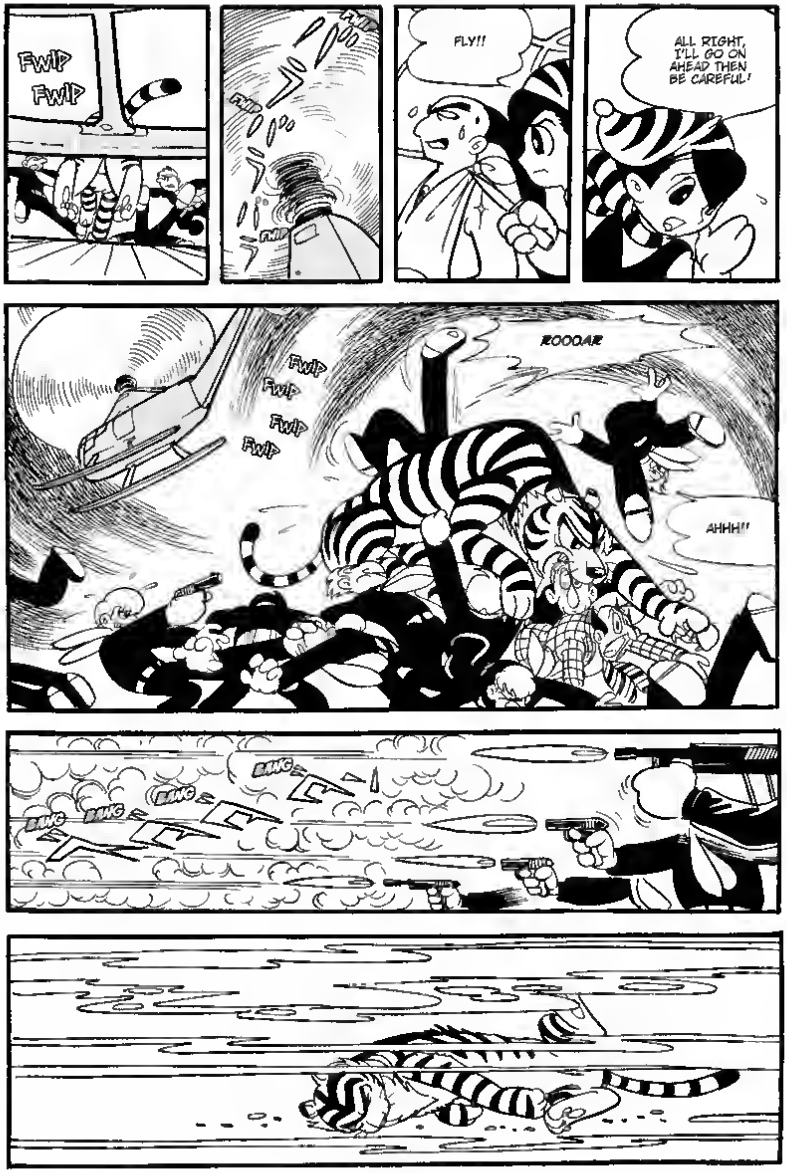

CRAP!
RIP!!
AHH!!
CLINK
THE SECOND KEY!
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?!
I WANT YOU TO TELL THEM TO NOT DO ANYTHING STUPID
THEY WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO ENDANGER YOUR LIFE, RIGHT?
OKAY, I'LL LEAVE YOU YOUR LIFE NOW, SHOW ME THE WAY TO THE DECK!
HAHAHAHA! BOY, THIS SHIP IS FULL OF MY SUBORDINATES THEY WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS

IT'S THAT BOY!
WHAT'S HAPPENED, MR KOUSETSU-KOKU?
AH, MR KOUSETSU-KOKU...
BUT MR KOUSETSU-KOKU...
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SHOOT THIS BOY.
STOP!!
CLICK
I'LL DO SOMETHING TO THE BOY... MYSELF. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO YET. BUT I'M THINKING...
YES, SIR
IT'S MY OWN FAULT THAT I GOT INTO THIS MESS, AND I WON'T BE INDEBTED TO ANY OF YOU.
KEEP AN EYE ON THE REST OF THE CREW.
ROOOAR
DAN!!

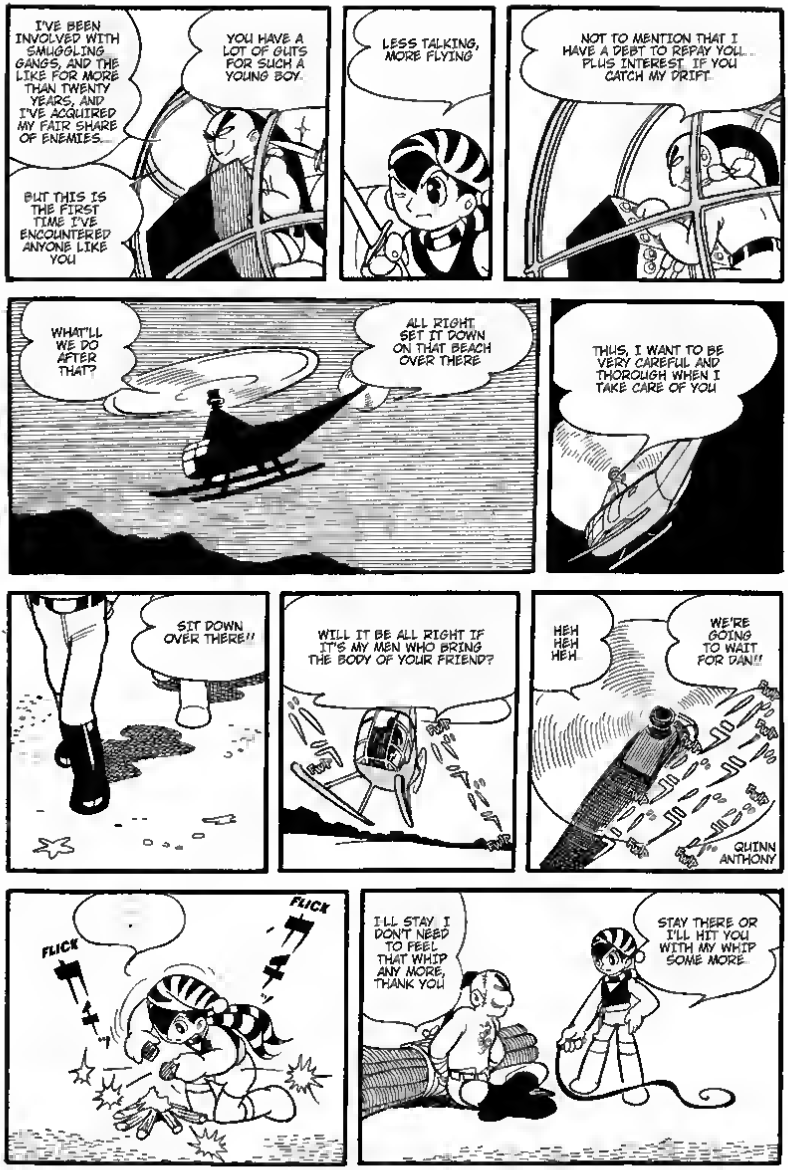
ALL RIGHT, GET IN THE HELICOPTER!!
BE CAREFUL, DAN! THAT MAN'S LOOKING FOR ANY OPPORTUNITY TO GET FREE!
YOU CAN FLY IT, RIGHT?
OKAY, YOU GET IN TOO, DAN... BUT DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN...
I CAN SMELL THAT HE'S UP TO SOMETHING. BE VERY CAREFUL!
I KNOW, DAN. STOP WORRYING AND KEEP AN EYE OUT.


EVERYONE! ATTACK THE TIGER!!
CRAP! IF THE TIGER GETS ON, I'LL BE FINISHED...
GRRRR
FWIP


DAN!!
GO NOW, KOTAN!!
WHOOSH!!
GO AHEAD AND GO WITHOUT ME!
BUT THEY'LL KILL YOU!
I'LL GET AWAY SHORTLY. WAIT FOR ME AT THE SANDY BEACH
BAH! THESE GUYS ARE NO MATCH FOR ME! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
ROAR!


FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FLY!!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO ON AHEAD THEN BE CAREFUL!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
ROOOAR
AHHH!!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG

HEH HEH HEH HEH!
KOOOM!
EEK! IT'S STILL ALIVE!!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
HEH HEH HEH! BY NOW, YOUR FRIEND SHOULD BE GETTING SKINNED FOR MY WALL
EVEN IF THEY WIN, THEY WON'T KILL HIM. I HAVE YOU AS A HOSTAGE AFTER ALL.
AHHHH!
THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS TO TAKE THOSE TWO KEYS BACK FROM YOU WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS
HOSTAGE? ME? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!


I'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH SMUGGLING GANGS, AND THE LIKE FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, AND I'VE ACQUIRED MY FAIR SHARE OF ENEMIES...
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE ENCOUNTERED ANYONE LIKE YOU
YOU HAVE A LOT OF GUTS FOR SUCH A YOUNG BOY.
LESS TALKING, MORE FLYING
NOT TO MENTION THAT I HAVE A DEBT TO REPAY YOU... PLUS INTEREST IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.
WHAT'LL WE DO AFTER THAT?
ALL RIGHT. SET IT DOWN ON THAT BEACH OVER THERE
THUS, I WANT TO BE VERY CAREFUL AND THOROUGH WHEN I TAKE CARE OF YOU
SIT DOWN OVER THERE!!
WILL IT BE ALL RIGHT IF IT'S MY MEN WHO BRING THE BODY OF YOUR FRIEND?
HEH HEH HEH
WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR DAN!!
QUINN ANTHONY
FLICK
FLICK
I'LL STAY. I DON'T NEED TO FEEL THAT WHIP ANY MORE, THANK YOU!
STAY THERE OR I'LL HIT YOU WITH MY WHIP SOME MORE.

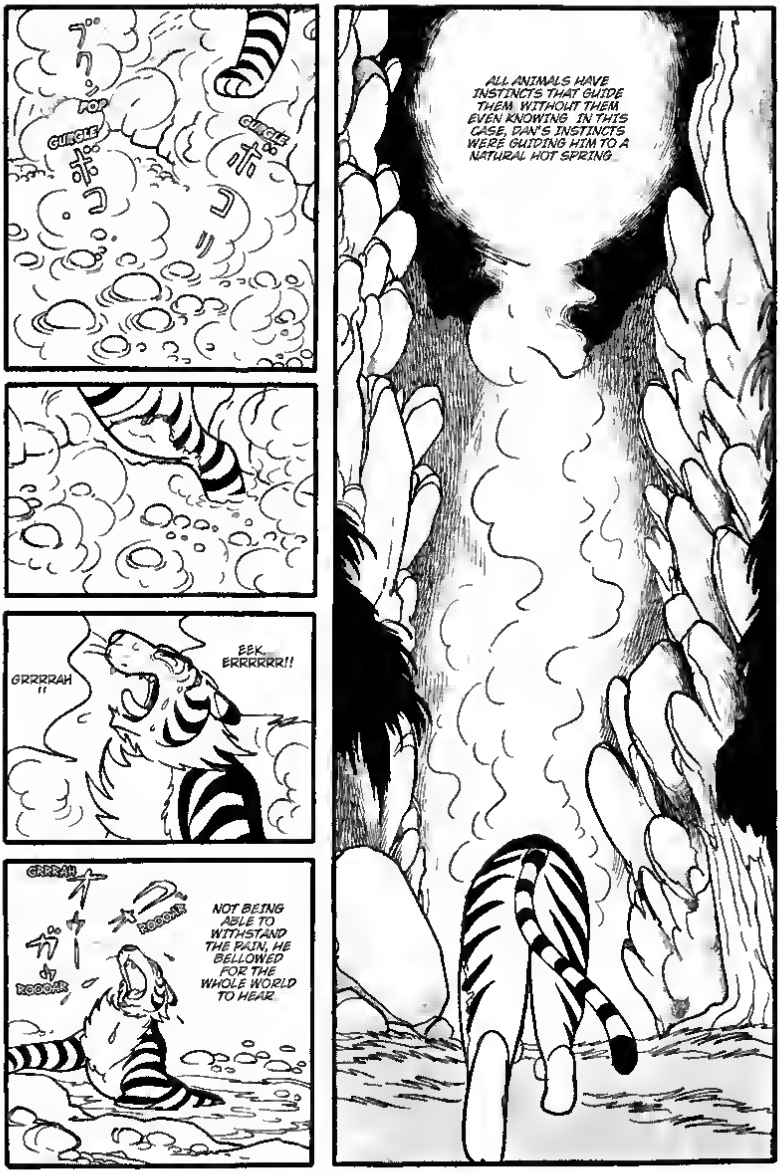
THEY'LL BE COMING BACK TO ME SOON ENOUGH.
JUST MAKING SURE. TAKE GOOD CARE OF THOSE KEYS
YOU KNOW I DO
FOOO
SO NOW YOU HAVE TWO KEYS, RIGHT?
TRUST ME, JUST PUSH IT
PUSH THE HEAD OF THAT KEY
WANT ME TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THEM?
IT OPENED!
CLICK
WITHOUT THE THIRD KEY, THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL EXACTLY WHERE THAT PLACE IS.
WITH THE THIRD KEY, THE MAP WOULD BE COMPLETE.
THAT'S THE KEY'S SECRET. THEY EACH HAVE A MAP WITHIN THEM. THEY LEAD TO THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF THE AINU

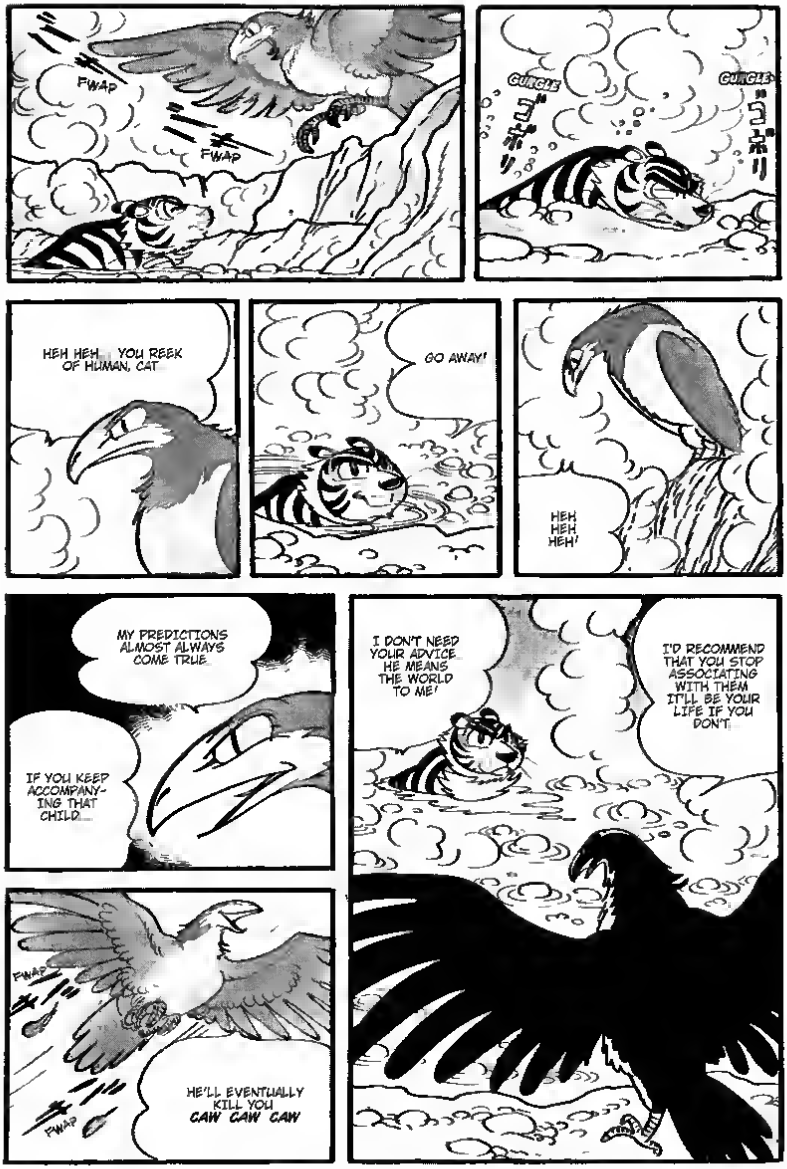
THERE'S DAN!!
AND FURTHERMORE, YOU NEED ALL THREE KEYS TO UNLOCK THE DOOR TO THE TOMB
I WAS STARTING TO GET WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU TOOK SO LONG!
DANNN, OVER HERE!
ACK! DAN ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED?!

OH NO!! LOOK AT ALL OF THESE INJURIES.. POOR DAN..
GULP
HAHAHAHAHA!
MUWAHAHAHAHA! WHAT DID I TELL YOU?!
GRRR

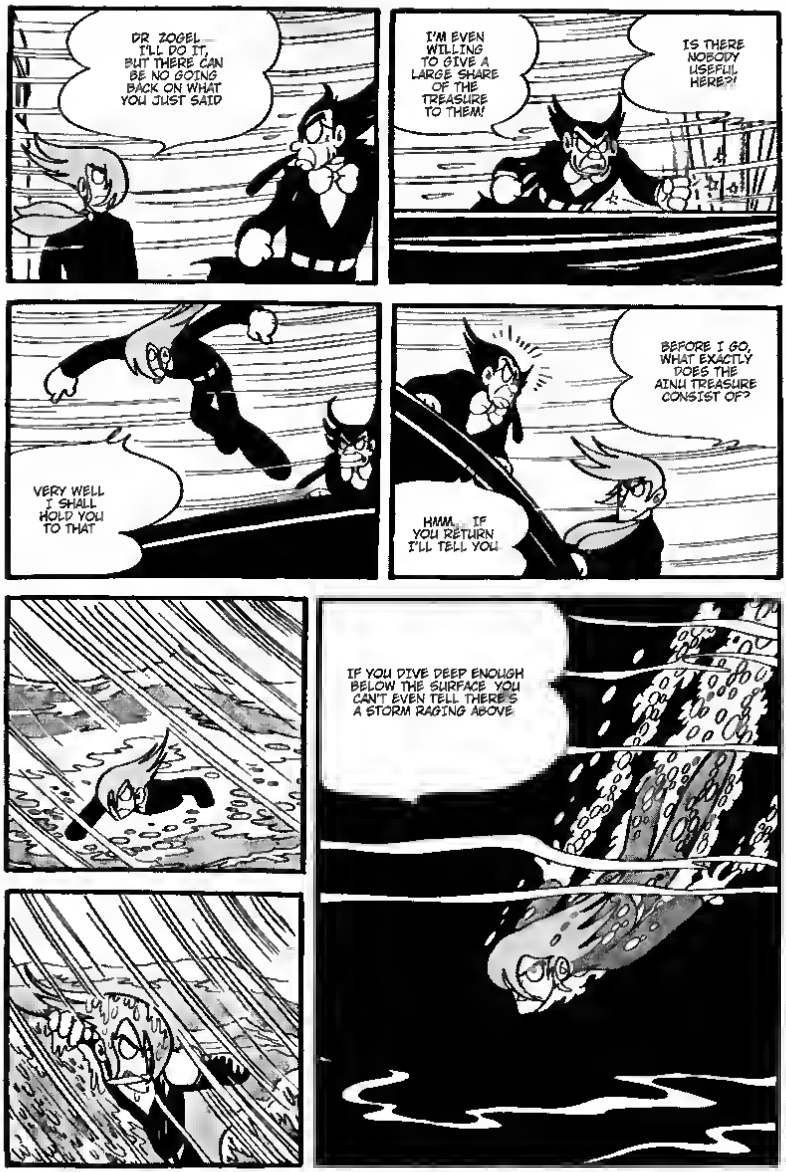
AHHH!
DAN! YOU'RE ALIVE!!
ROOOAR
EEEEK!!
NO . PLEASE NO
ACK!
THUNK
HMPH! JUST THOUGHT I'D GIVE HIM A GOOD SCARE, IN CASE HE WAS THINKING OF TRYING ANYTHING
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
UGHHH

WELL, I FOUGHT FOR A WHILE ON THE SHIP AND THEN JUMPED OVERBOARD, BUT SOMEBODY GOT A SHOT OFF ON ME AS I WAS SWIMMING.
OOOH, THIS IS A BAD WOUND! THE MUSCLES HAVE BEEN TORN APART
UH. UGH
STAY HERE I'LL BE BACK SOON.
I'LL COME WITH YOU!
I'LL BE BACK BY DAYBREAK AND FULLY HEALED
YOU'LL DIE IF WE DON'T TREAT THIS!!
DON'T WORRY, KOTAN
DAN ATE THE PLANTS HE CAME ACROSS AS HE WORKED HIS WAY UP THE MOUNTAIN.
DAN WENT FARTHER AND FARTHER UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS. WHERE HE WAS GOING, EVEN HE DIDN'T KNOW. BUT SOME UNKNOWABLE FORCE SEEMED TO BE GUIDING HIM SOMEWHERE.
THEY WERE MEDICINAL PLANTS THAT HELPED TO DULL THE PAIN OF HIS WOUND


ALL ANIMALS HAVE INSTINCTS THAT GUIDE THEM. WITHOUT THEM EVEN KNOWING IN THIS CASE, DAN'S INSTINCTS WERE GUIDING HIM TO A NATURAL HOT SPRING...
GUNGE
GUNGE
GRRRRAH
EEK... ERRRRRR!!
GRRRAH
KOOOM
KOOOM
NOT BEING ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PAIN, HE BELLOWED FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO HEAR...

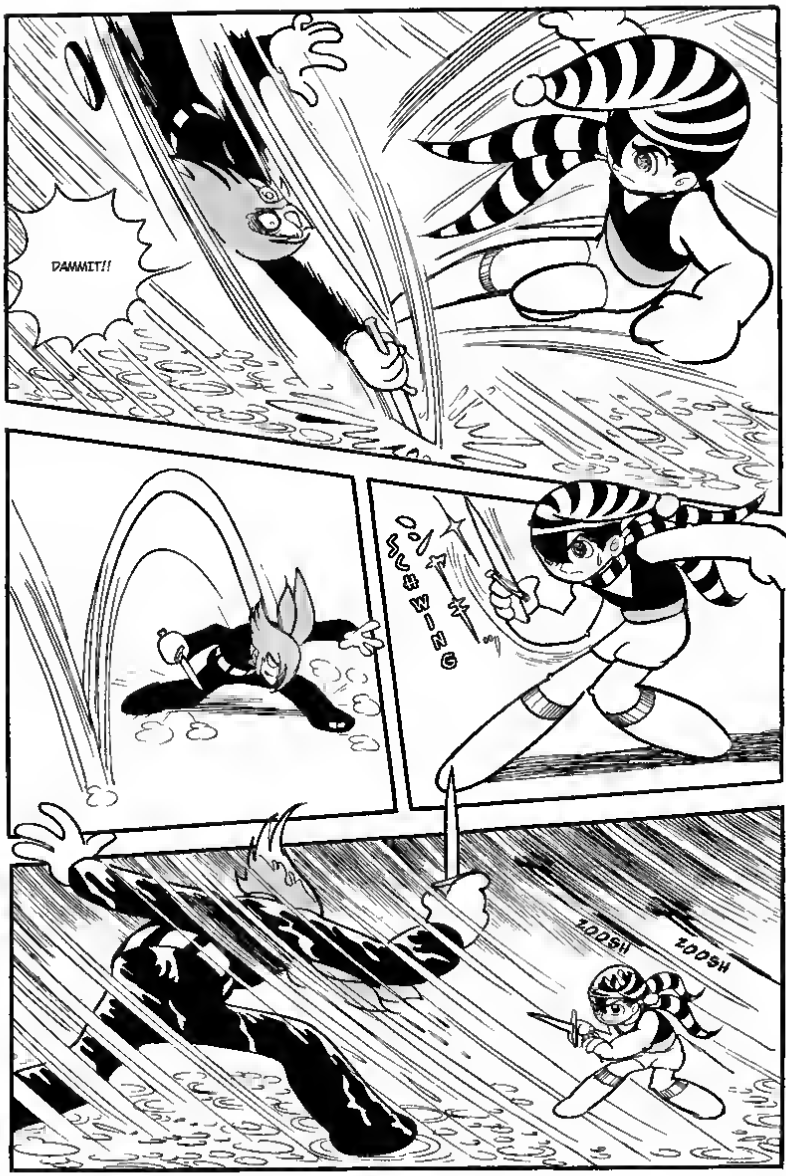

FWAP
FWAP
GURGLE
ゴボリ
GURGLE
ゴボリ
HEH HEH... YOU REEK OF HUMAN, CAT
GO AWAY!
HEH HEH HEH
MY PREDICTIONS ALMOST ALWAYS COME TRUE
IF YOU KEEP ACCOMPANY-ING THAT CHILD...
I DON'T NEED YOUR ADVICE. HE MEANS THE WORLD TO ME!
I'D RECOMMEND THAT YOU STOP ASSOCIATING WITH THEM. IT'LL BE YOUR LIFE IF YOU DON'T.
FWAP
FWAP
HE'LL EVENTUALLY KILL YOU CAW CAW CAW

HE'LL KILL YOU WITH ONE SHOT FROM A GUN. THIS IS YOUR DESTINY. CAW CAW CAW
WHAT IF THAT DOES HAPPEN...?
BUT IF IT WAS TRUE...
BAH! OF ALL THE RIDICULOUS THINGS!!
KOTAN? KILL ME?
WHOOSH
HMM... A WIND HAS ARISEN. A STORM IS COMING...
WITH THE WIND AND WAVES LIKE THIS, NO ONE WOULD MAKE IT THAT FAR.
USELESS WEAKLINGS
IS THERE NO ONE WHO'LL GO TO THE MAINLAND AND GET THE KEYS BACK?!


DR. ZOGEL... I'LL DO IT, BUT THERE CAN BE NO GOING BACK ON WHAT YOU JUST SAID
I'M EVEN WILLING TO GIVE A LARGE SHARE OF THE TREASURE TO THEM!
IS THERE NOBODY USEFUL HERE?!
VERY WELL I SHALL HOLD YOU TO THAT
HMM... IF YOU RETURN I'LL TELL YOU
BEFORE I GO, WHAT EXACTLY DOES THE AINU TREASURE CONSIST OF?
IF YOU DIVE DEEP ENOUGH BELOW THE SURFACE YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL THERE'S A STORM RAGING ABOVE

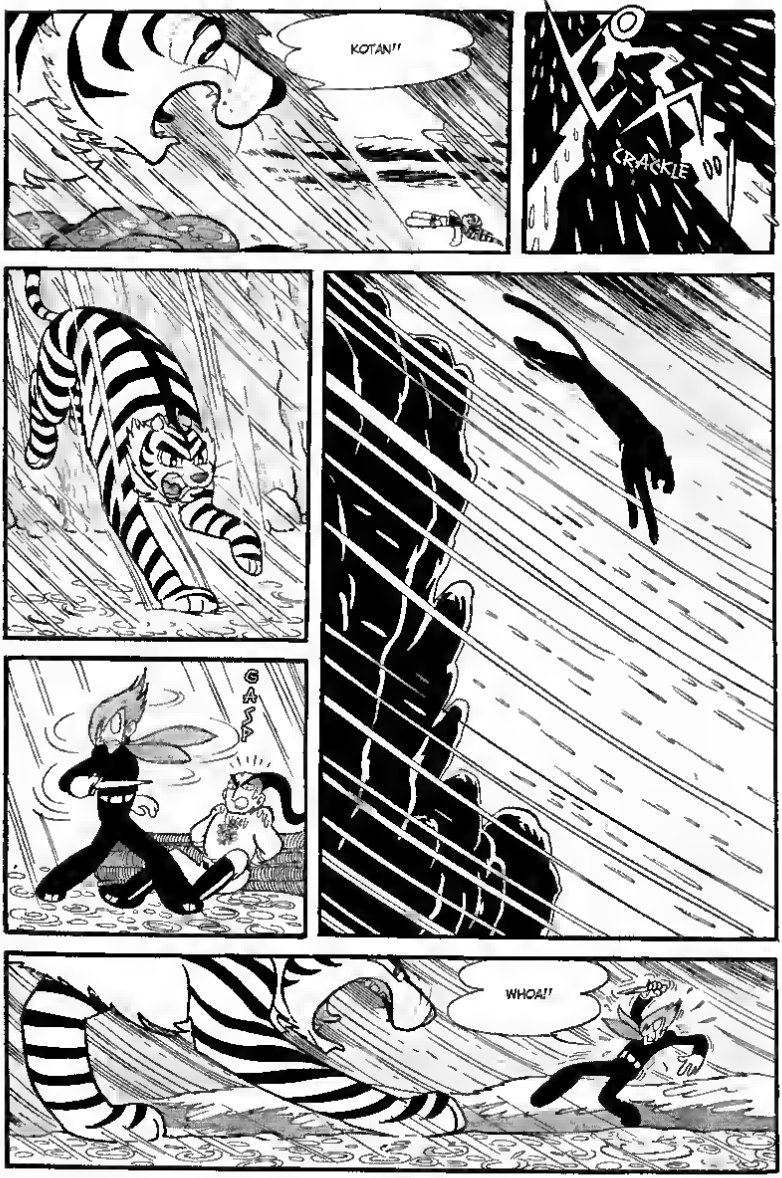
I'D RETURN IT TO THE AINU PEOPLE.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING WITH IT.
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THE TREASURE ONCE YOU FIND IT?
MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT A LONG TIME AGO THE AINU WERE DRIVEN FROM THEIR NATIVE LANDS AND THERE ARE VERY FEW FULL-BLOODED AINU LEFT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SUCH A WASTE. WHY BOTHER?
THE AINU ARE A GENTLE PEOPLE AND THEY DESERVE IT.

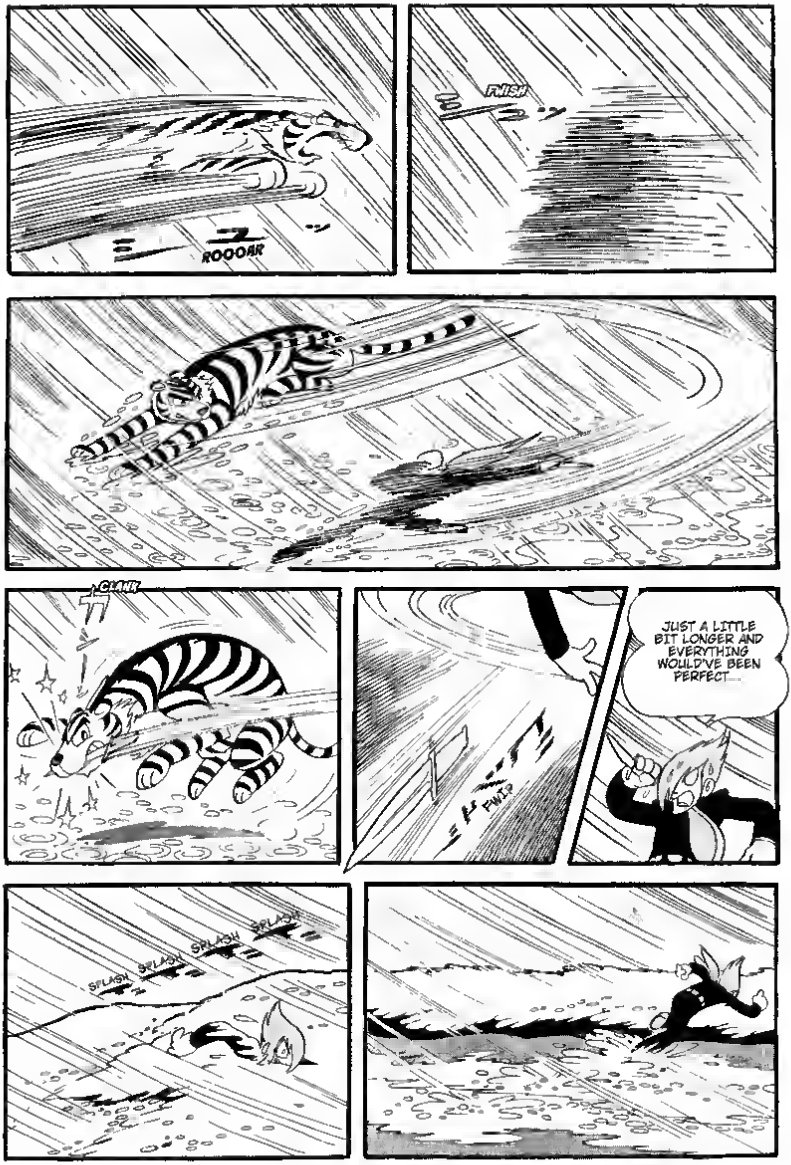
ARE YOU AINU?
YES, I AM
EVEN NOW... THOUGH THERE ARE STILL AINU OUT THERE FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING WITHOUT THEM?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS, BOY? DID THEY DIE?
THEY WERE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME AFTER THAT, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.
THAT LONG, HUH.
THREE YEARS...
BOY, ABOVE YOU!!
GASP
WHEN I WAS AROUND YOUR AGE...
I ALSO

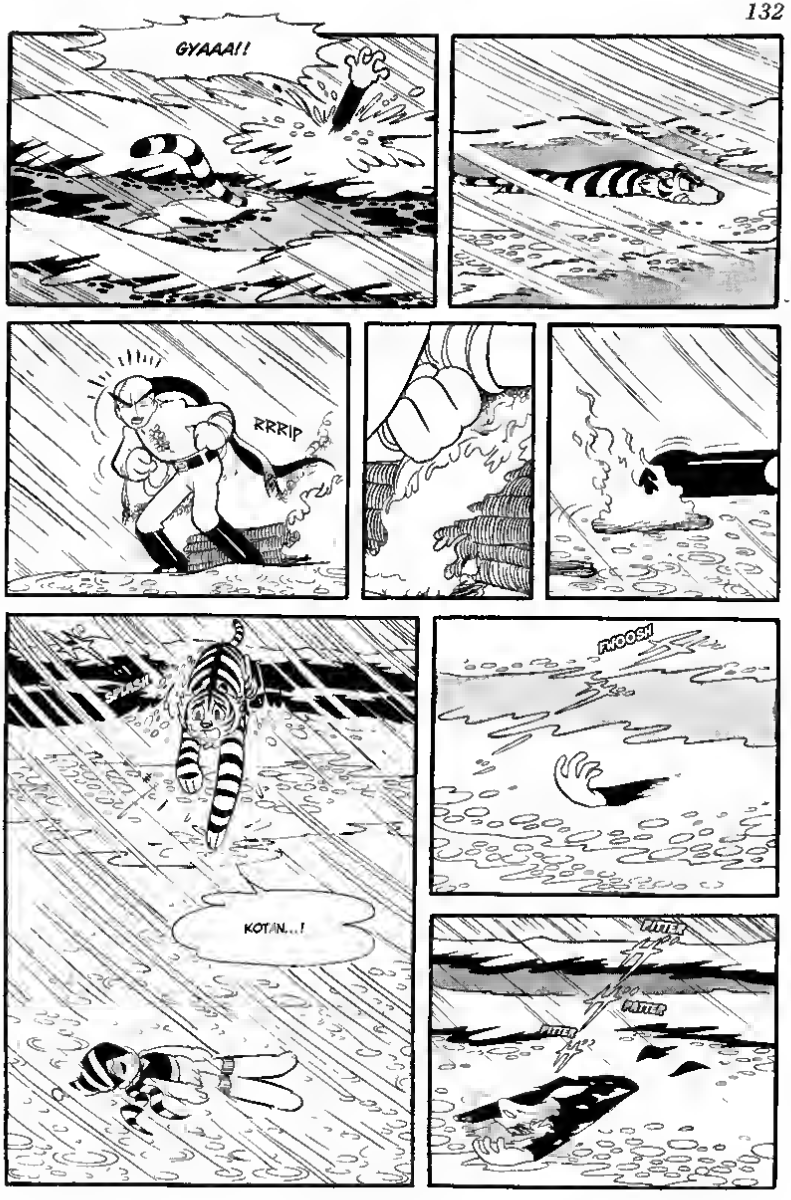

DAMMIT!!
SWING
WOOSH
WOOSH

FSSHHH
MR KOUSETSU-KOKU, I'VE COME TO HELP YOU
WATCH CLOSELY, LITTLE ONE. I'M EVEN FASTER THAN THE FALLING RAIN
I'M OVER HERE, LITTLE ONE HEH HEH HEH
PREPARE YOURSELF!!
ACK!
WHOOSH
AHHH!!

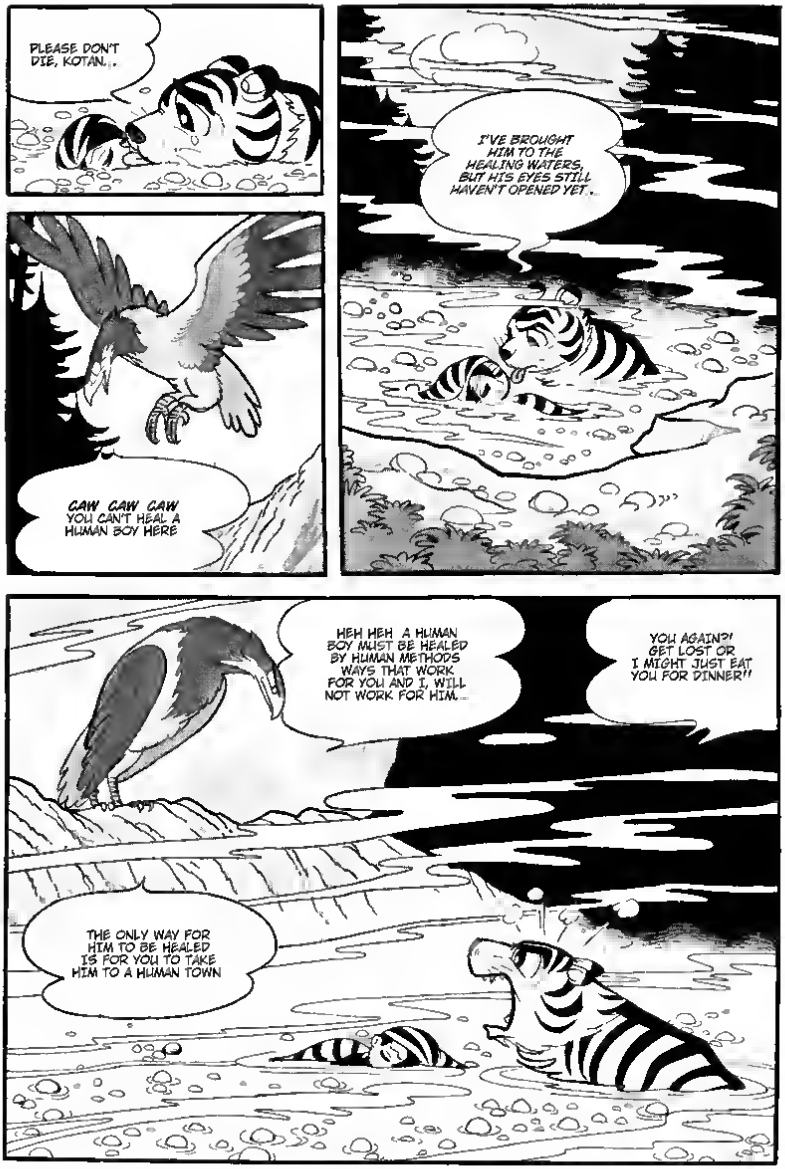
AND HERE ARE THE KEYS... BOTH OF THEM!
GAHHH!!
I'LL JUST REPORT THAT YOU WERE ALREADY DEAD BY THE TIME I GOT HERE.
I'VE ALREADY SECURED A PROMISE FOR A SHARE OF THE TREASURE.
MR KOUSETSU-KOKU, I'M AFRAID THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DIE.
EH HEH HEH HEH HEH.
KOTAN, HOLD ON!! I'M COMING!!
KOTAN!! SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO KOTAN!!
KOTAN'S IN DANGER! I CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER!!


KOTAN!!
CRACKLE
GASP
WHOA!!

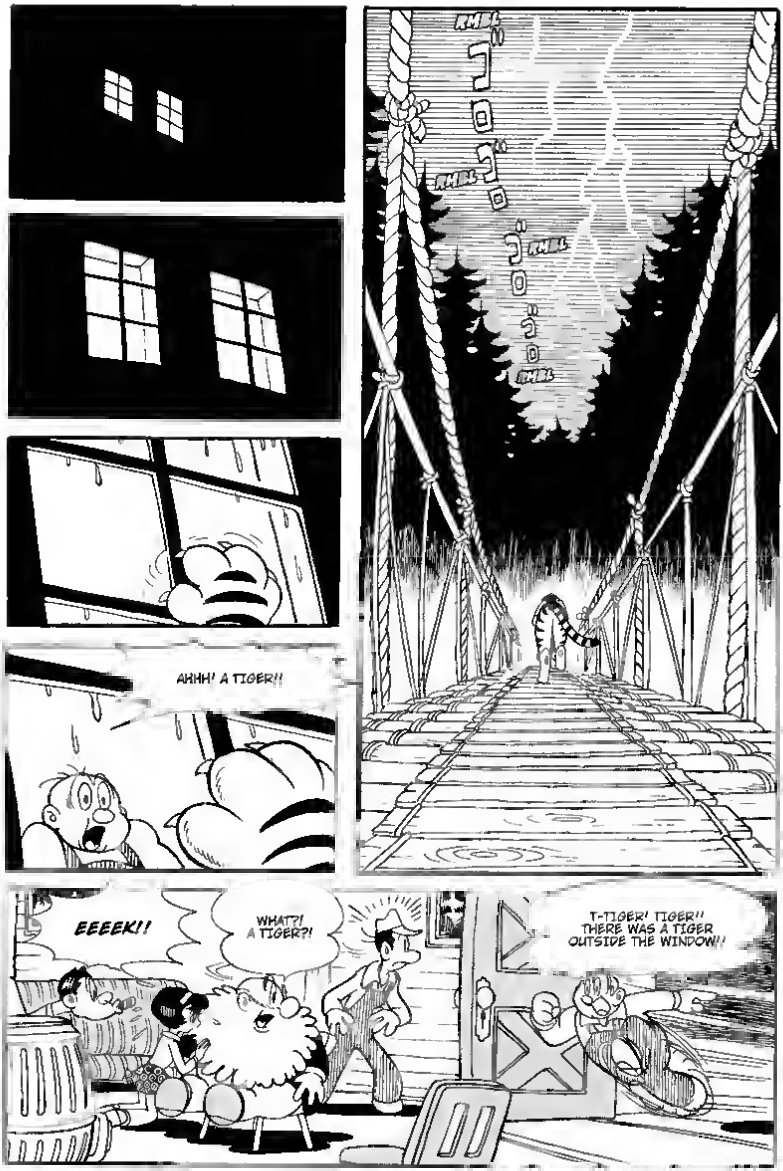

ROOOAR
FWISH
CLANK
PANT
JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER AND EVERYTHING WOULD'VE BEEN PERFECT...
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

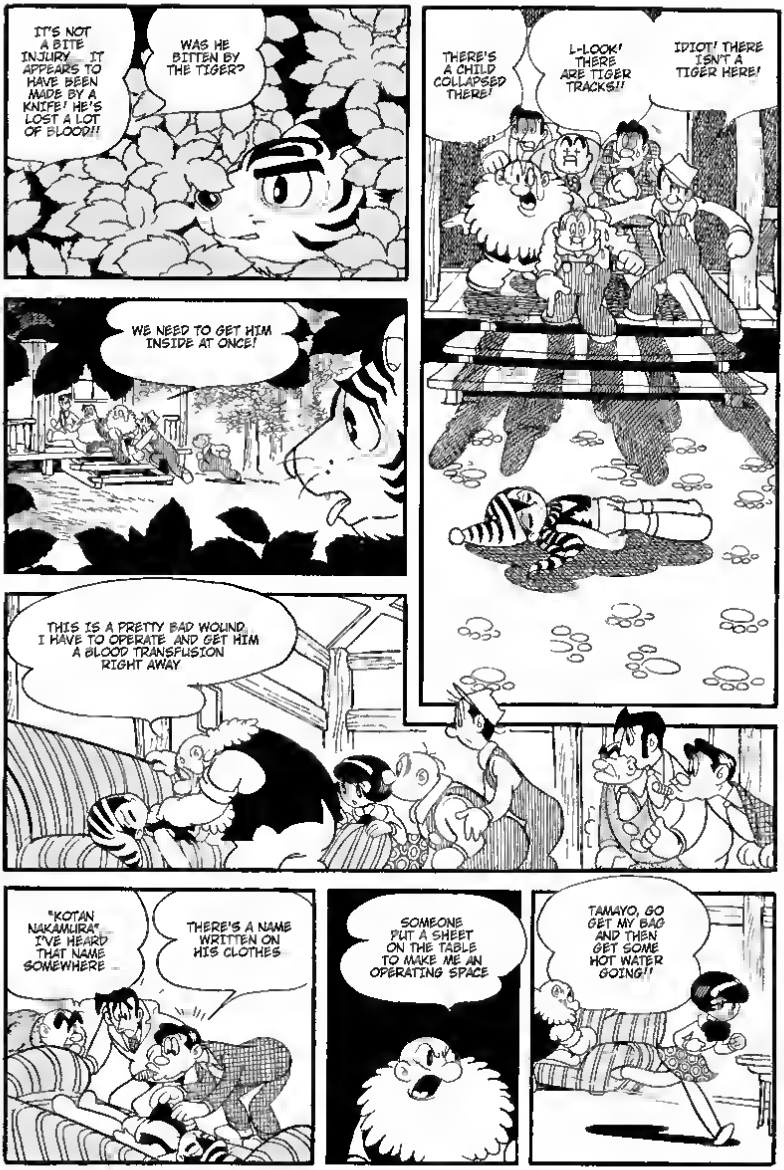

GYAAA!!
RRRIP
KOTAN...!
WHOOSH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

DON'T DIE!! YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DIE!!
HE'S NOT MOVING!! WHAT DO I DO?! ARGH!!
KOTAN...!
STILL, I WISH YOU THE BEST, BOY.
HAHAHA! I GOT THE KEYS BACK!!

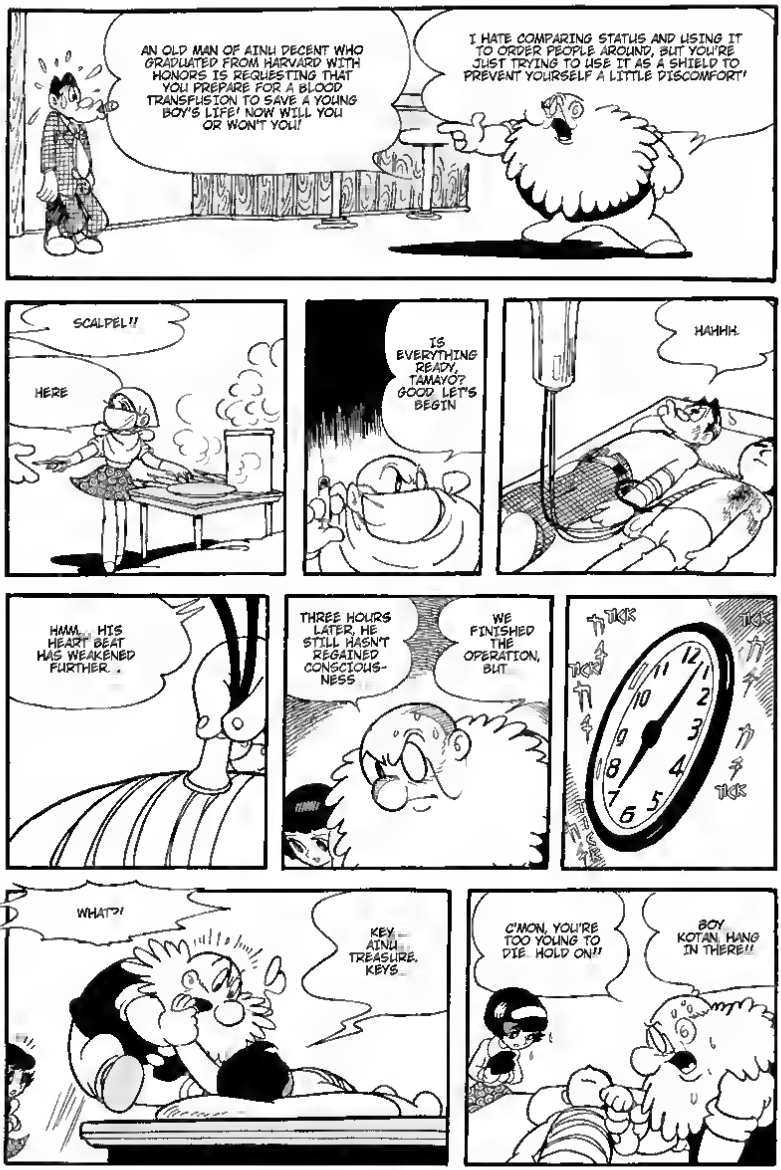

PLEASE DON'T DIE, KOTAN...
I'VE BROUGHT HIM TO THE HEALING WATERS, BUT HIS EYES STILL HAVEN'T OPENED YET...
CAW CAW CAW YOU CAN'T HEAL A HUMAN BOY HERE
HEH HEH A HUMAN BOY MUST BE HEALED BY HUMAN METHODS WAYS THAT WORK FOR YOU AND I, WILL NOT WORK FOR HIM...
YOU AGAIN?! GET LOST OR I MIGHT JUST EAT YOU FOR DINNER!!
THE ONLY WAY FOR HIM TO BE HEALED IS FOR YOU TO TAKE HIM TO A HUMAN TOWN

SHUT UP!!
CAW CAW
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE THE HUMANS WOULD KILL YOU ON SIGHT
TAKE HIM TO A HUMAN TOWN?! YOU THINK THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN EASILY DO?!
YOU REALLY ARE A STUPID CAT, AREN'T YOU?
HEH HEH HEH HEH
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE NO MATTER WHERE I HAVE TO GO.
IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY...
I MAY BE AN IDIOT, BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO HEAL KOTAN EVEN IF IT LEADS TO MY OWN DEATH...
?


AHHH! A TIGER!!
EEEEK!!
WHAT?! A TIGER?!
T-TIGER! TIGER!! THERE WAS A TIGER OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!!


IT'S NOT A BITE INJURY... IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY A KNIFE! HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!!
WAS HE BITTEN BY THE TIGER?
THERE'S A CHILD COLLAPSED THERE!
L-LOOK! THERE ARE TIGER TRACKS!!
IDIOT! THERE ISN'T A TIGER HERE!
WE NEED TO GET HIM INSIDE AT ONCE!
THIS IS A PRETTY BAD WOUND... I HAVE TO OPERATE AND GET HIM A BLOOD TRANSFUSION RIGHT AWAY
"KOTAN NAKAMURA" I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE...
THERE'S A NAME WRITTEN ON HIS CLOTHES
SOMEONE PUT A SHEET ON THE TABLE TO MAKE ME AN OPERATING SPACE
TAMAYO, GO GET MY BAG AND THEN GET SOME HOT WATER GOING!!

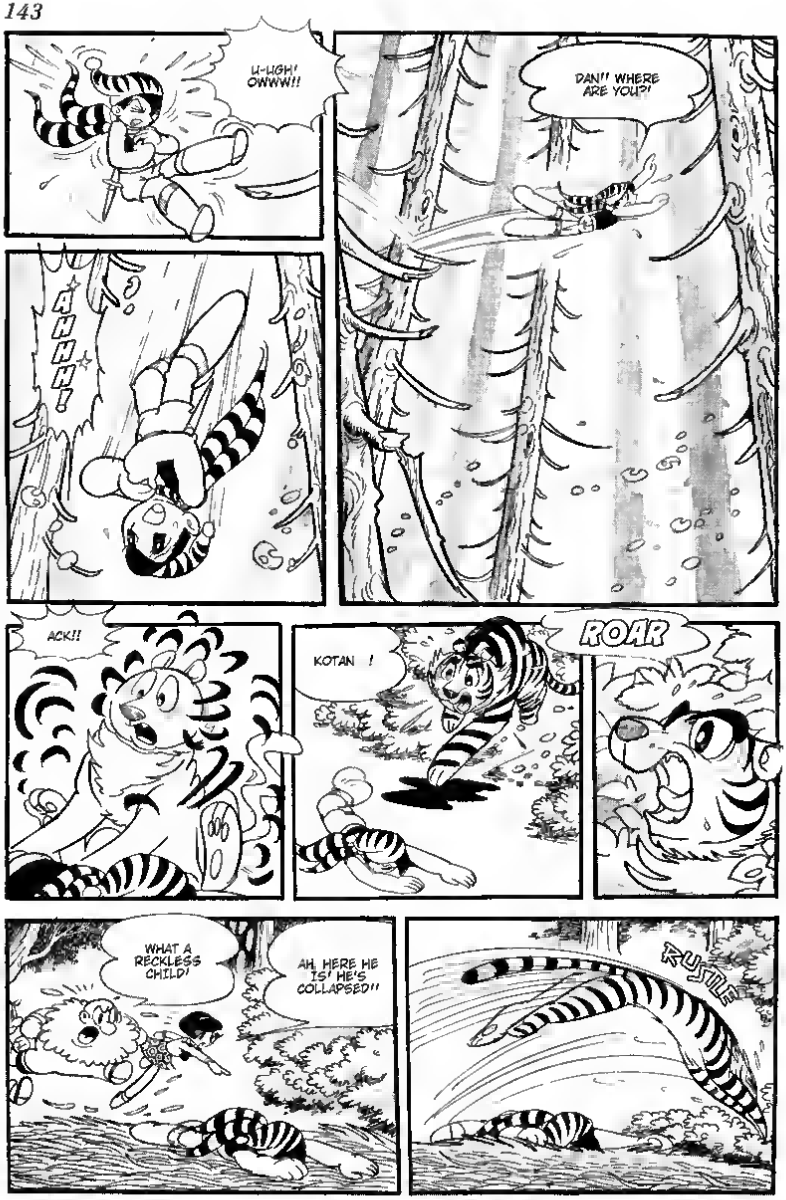
I'M BLOOD TYPE O
IS THERE ANYONE HERE WHOSE BLOOD TYPE IS O?
HIS BLOOD TYPE IS O
THIS IS THE CHILD OF A MURDERER. HE RAN AWAY WITH HIS FATHER AND WAS NEVER HEARD OF AGAIN
THIS CHILD CAN ONLY RECEIVE BLOOD FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SAME BLOOD TYPE
THAT DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW GET READY FOR THE TRANSFUSION
I JUST REMEMBERED WHERE I HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE! "NAKAMURA" WAS THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO KILLED THAT SUPERVISOR OVER AT THE KIMURA LOGGING OPERATION!!
I'M A POLITICIAN! I CAN'T GO AROUND GIVING MY BLOOD TO CRIMINALS!!
SO WHAT IF HE'S A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS?!
AND I'M A RESPECTED SCHOLAR AND PROFESSOR!!
I'M TRYING TO SAY THAT I'M NOT WILLING TO GIVE MY BLOOD TO SOMEONE OF SUCH A DUBIOUS REPUTATION
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY HERE?

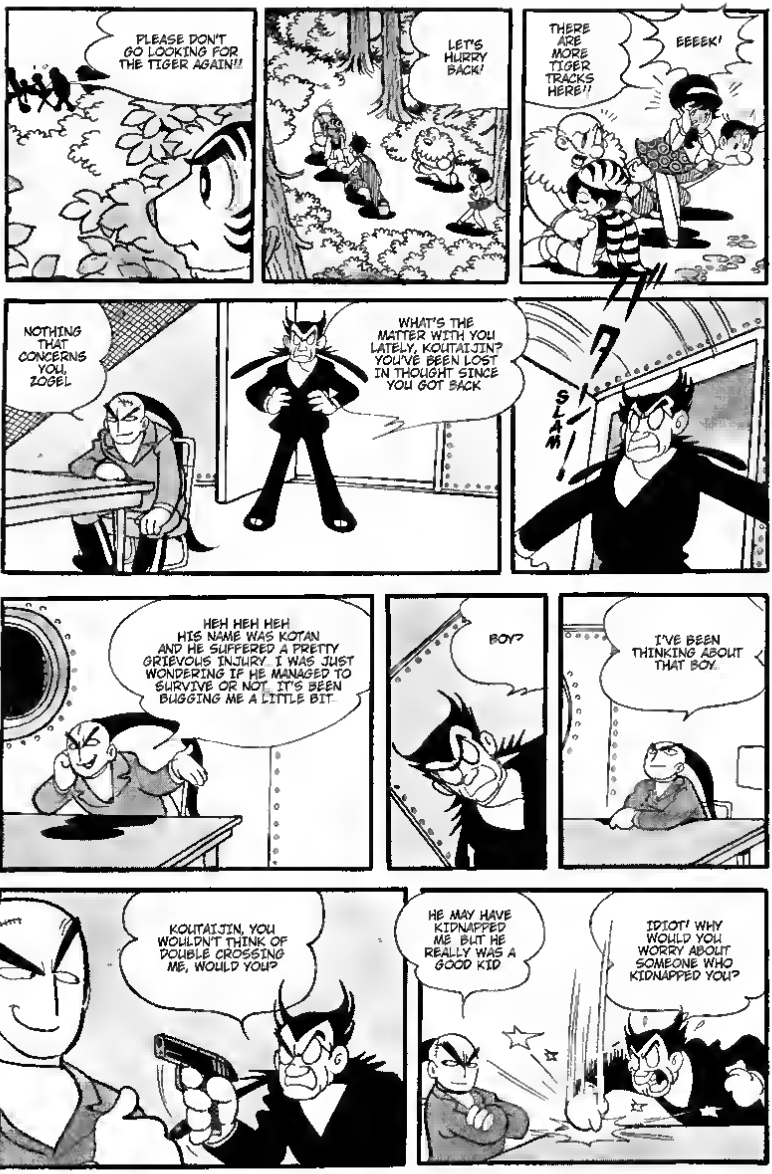

AN OLD MAN OF AINU DECENT WHO GRADUATED FROM HARVARD WITH HONORS IS REQUESTING THAT YOU PREPARE FOR A BLOOD TRANSFUSION TO SAVE A YOUNG BOY'S LIFE! NOW WILL YOU OR WON'T YOU!
I HATE COMPARING STATUS AND USING IT TO ORDER PEOPLE AROUND, BUT YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO USE IT AS A SHIELD TO PREVENT YOURSELF A LITTLE DISCOMFORT!
SCALPEL!!
HERE
IS EVERYTHING READY, TAMAYO? GOOD. LET'S BEGIN
HAHHH.
HMM... HIS HEART BEAT HAS WEAKENED FURTHER...
THREE HOURS LATER, HE STILL HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS
WE FINISHED THE OPERATION, BUT
TICK
WHAT?!
KEY... AINU TREASURE. KEYS...
C'MON, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO DIE. HOLD ON!!
BOY, KOTAN, HANG IN THERE!!

HE KNOWS ABOUT THE KEYS TO THE AINU TREASURE?!
THE KEYS... AINU TOMB...
BRING IT HERE
TAMAYO THERE SHOULD BE AN OLD KEY IN THE BACK OF MY BAG
YES. IT'S RIGHT HERE, PAPA.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE KEYS? WHAT WERE YOU INVOLVED IN?
IT'S A KEY TO THE AINU TREASURE
OPEN YOUR EYES, BOY. HAVE A LOOK AT THIS.
AH! HE WOKE UP! HE'S ALL RIGHT!!
KEY... ONE OF THE KEYS!!

BUT HE'S FINE THIS TIME HE'S JUST FAINTED HIS HEART SOUNDS MUCH BETTER NOW, WE'LL JUST LET HIM REST AND RECOVER HIS STRENGTH
OH, HE'S COLLAPSED AGAIN...
YAY, HE'S SAVED!!
BONK
HIP HIP HOO-RAY!!
WITH THIS GUY, A WALLET SHOULD DO THE TRICK...
SPRONG
YOU GUYS DEAL WITH HIM
HE'S COLLAPSED TOO! IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?
IT MUST'VE BEEN DAN!!
WE DON'T KNOW, BUT THERE WERE A BUNCH OF TIGER TRACKS AROUND WHERE WE FOUND YOU
NOW DID I COME TO BE HERE?
I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE FEELING BETTER
DANNN!!
CHIRP
CHIRP
DAN!!

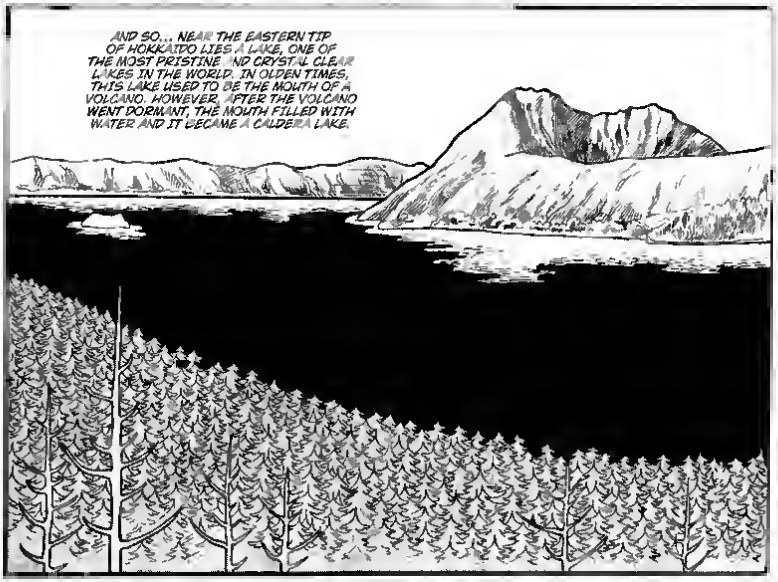
PAPA, COME QUICK!!
NO, YOU AREN'T FULLY HEALED YET! YOU NEED TO REST
PLEASE LET GO. I HAVE TO LOOK FOR MY FRIEND
AH!
DAN! DAN! WHERE ARE YOU? YOU BROUGHT ME HERE FROM THE BEACH RIGHT? YOU MUST BE HIDING SOMEWHERE NEARBY, RIGHT?
COME ON OUT!! I KNOW YOU'RE SOMEWHERE OUT THERE!!
HEY, DAN!!
WA-PSHH
HIII-YA!!


U-UGH! OWWW!!
DAN!! WHERE ARE YOU?!
AHHH!
ACK!!
KOTAN !
ROAR
WHAT A RECKLESS CHILD!
AH, HERE HE IS! HE'S COLLAPSED!!
RUSTLE

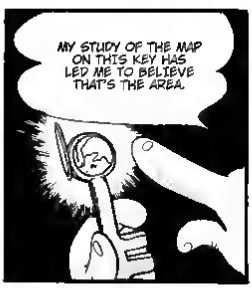

PLEASE DON'T GO LOOKING FOR THE TIGER AGAIN!!
LET'S HURRY BACK!
THERE ARE MORE TIGER TRACKS HERE!!
EEEEK!
NOTHING THAT CONCERNS YOU, ZOGEL
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU LATELY, KOUTAIJIN? YOU'VE BEEN LOST IN THOUGHT SINCE YOU GOT BACK
SLAM!
HEH HEH HEH HIS NAME WAS KOTAN AND HE SUFFERED A PRETTY GRIEVOUS INJURY. I WAS JUST WONDERING IF HE MANAGED TO SURVIVE OR NOT. IT'S BEEN BUGGING ME A LITTLE BIT.
BOY?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT BOY.
KOUTAIJIN, YOU WOULDN'T THINK OF DOUBLE CROSSING ME, WOULD YOU?
HE MAY HAVE KIDNAPPED ME BUT HE REALLY WAS A GOOD KID
IDIOT! WHY WOULD YOU WORRY ABOUT SOMEONE WHO KIDNAPPED YOU?

W-WHAT? I WOULD NEVER...!
WELL, IT WAS YOU WHO ORDERED MY HENCHMAN TO ATTACK ME, NO?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?!
THAT'S THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK!
HMM, DON'T YOU THINK THAT...
THE ENTRANCE TO THE ELDER'S TOMB APPEARS TO BE ON THE EDGE OF A LAKE AND FROM THERE WE GO UNDERGROUND
BAH! WHATEVER, IT'S IN THE PAST. MORE IMPORTANTLY I'VE MANAGED TO COMBINE THE MAPS FROM THE TWO KEYS AND FIGURED OUT SOME INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DESTINATION
BUT BEFORE THAT...
BANG
SOON! SOON THE TREASURE WILL BE OURS!! WE'RE SO CLOSE!
ONCE WE HAVE THE THIRD KEY WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHICH LAKE THIS MAP IS REFERRING TO
AWOOGA
AWOOGA
WE'LL GET THAT FINAL KEY!!
YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU WERE TO DOUBLE CROSS ME, RIGHT KOLITAIJIN?
WHISP

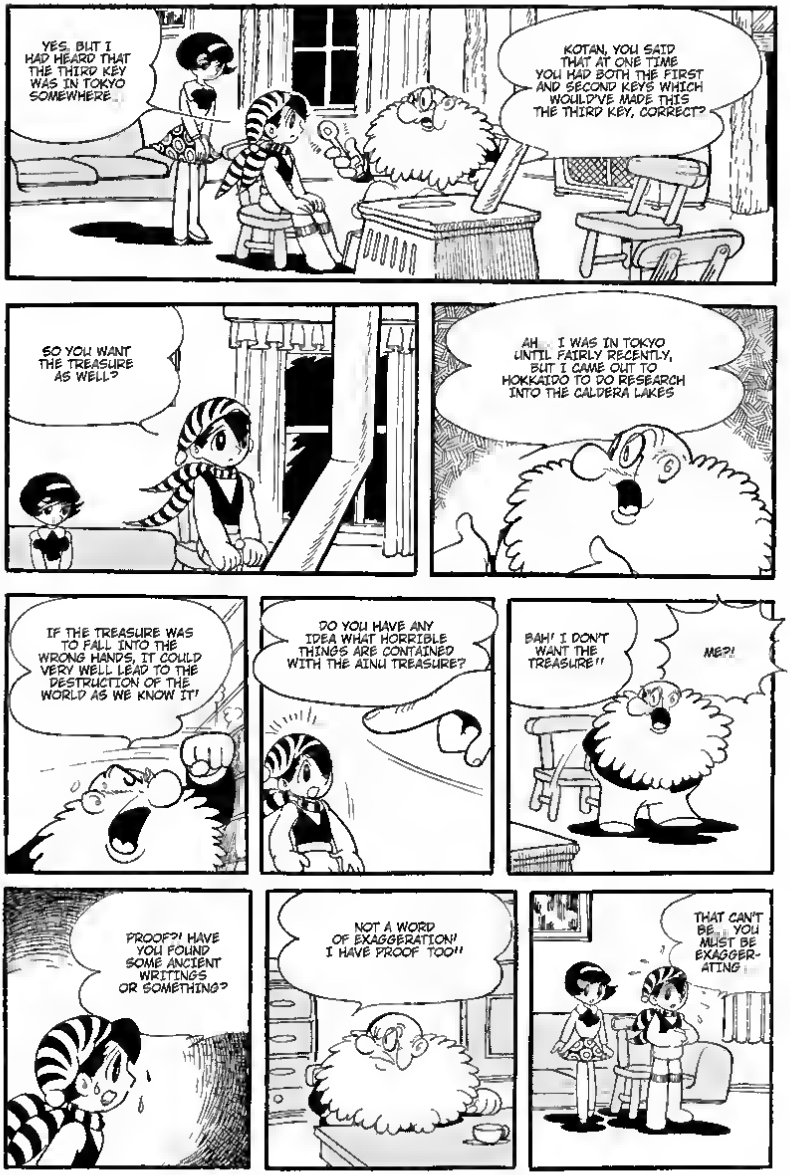
CHAPTER 3
THE SANCTUARY'S PROTECTOR


AND SO... NEAR THE EASTERN TIP OF HOKKAIDO LIES A LAKE, ONE OF THE MOST PRISTINE AND CRYSTAL CLEAR LAKES IN THE WORLD. IN OLDEN TIMES, THIS LAKE USED TO BE THE MOUTH OF A VOLCANO. HOWEVER, AFTER THE VOLCANO WENT DORMANT, THE MOUTH FILLED WITH WATER AND IT BECAME A CALDERA LAKE.

IT IS NEAR THIS LAKE THAT THE AINU TREASURE IS HIDDEN.


MY STUDY OF THE MAP ON THIS KEY HAS LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT'S THE AREA.

ENCIRCLING THIS LAKE IS AN ANCIENT PRIMEVAL FOREST THAT HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED A SACRED AND MYSTERIOUS PLACE...

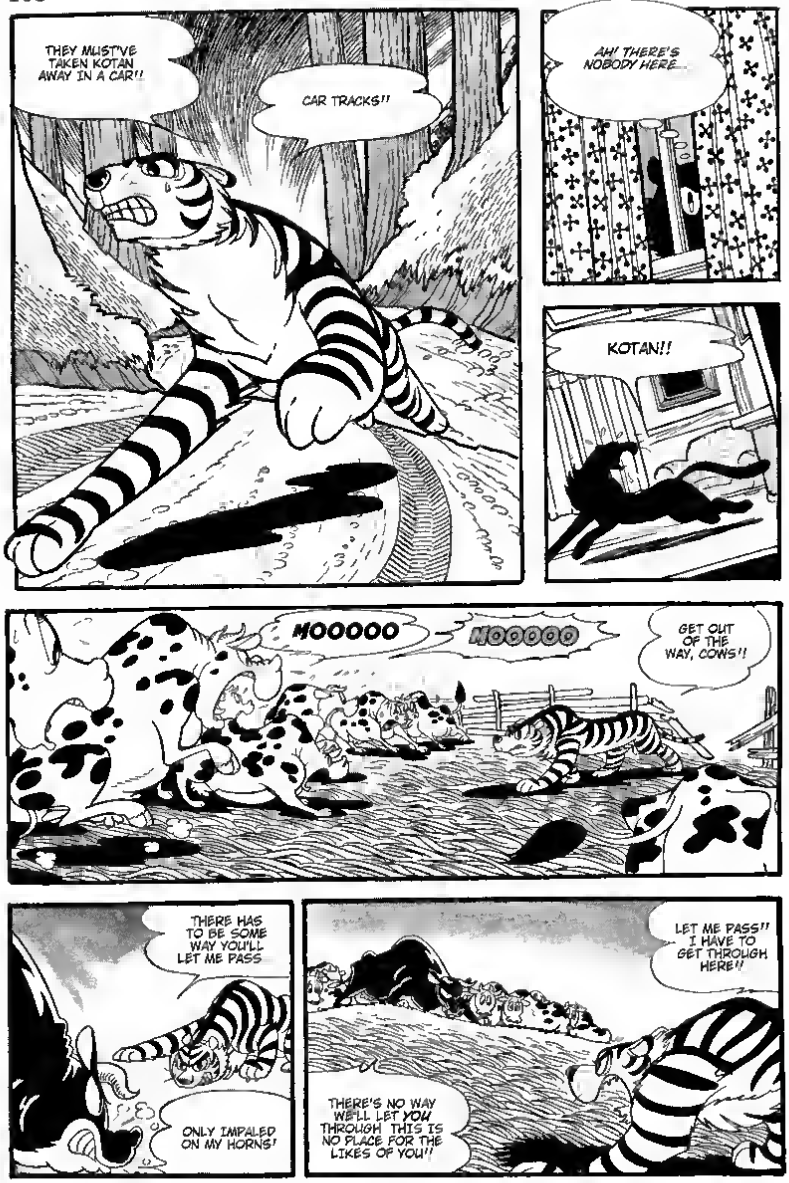

YES. BUT I HAD HEARD THAT THE THIRD KEY WAS IN TOKYO SOMEWHERE...
KOTAN, YOU SAID THAT AT ONE TIME YOU HAD BOTH THE FIRST AND SECOND KEYS WHICH WOULD'VE MADE THIS THE THIRD KEY, CORRECT?
SO YOU WANT THE TREASURE AS WELL?
AH... I WAS IN TOKYO UNTIL FAIRLY RECENTLY, BUT I CAME OUT TO HOKKAIDO TO DO RESEARCH INTO THE CALDERA LAKES
IF THE TREASURE WAS TO FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS, IT COULD VERY WELL LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT HORRIBLE THINGS ARE CONTAINED WITH THE AINU TREASURE?
BAH! I DON'T WANT THE TREASURE!!
ME?!
PROOF?! HAVE YOU FOUND SOME ANCIENT WRITINGS OR SOMETHING?
NOT A WORD OF EXAGGERATION! I HAVE PROOF TOO!!
THAT CAN'T BE... YOU MUST BE EXAGGERATING!

I AM AINU ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE AND ONE OF THE YUKAR THAT I INHERITED THROUGH HER IS VERY CLEARLY ABOUT THE AINU TREASURE
YUKAR ARE STORIES THAT RESEMBLE SONGS, PASSED ON VERBALLY FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION
THE AINU HAD NO WRITTEN LANGUAGE, SO THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION
NO
NO THE AINU'S ONLY RECORDS ARE IN THEIR YUKAR
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNEW ABOUT THIS WERE MYSELF AND ANOTHER PROFESSOR BY THE NAME OF ZOGBI, HOWEVER HE'S NOT SUCH A GOOD FELLOW
ACCORDING TO THAT YUKAR THE TREASURE CONTAINS MANY HORRIBLE THINGS!!
BUT DAN DOES NOT LIKE NOR TRUST HUMANS
TOGETHER WE CAN GET TO IT BEFORE ZOGBI DOES
KOTAN, PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR SEARCH
HE'S HAD A CONSIDERABLE HEAD START ON ME, BUT WE HAVE TO FIND THE TREASURE BEFORE HE CAN GET HIS HANDS ON IT

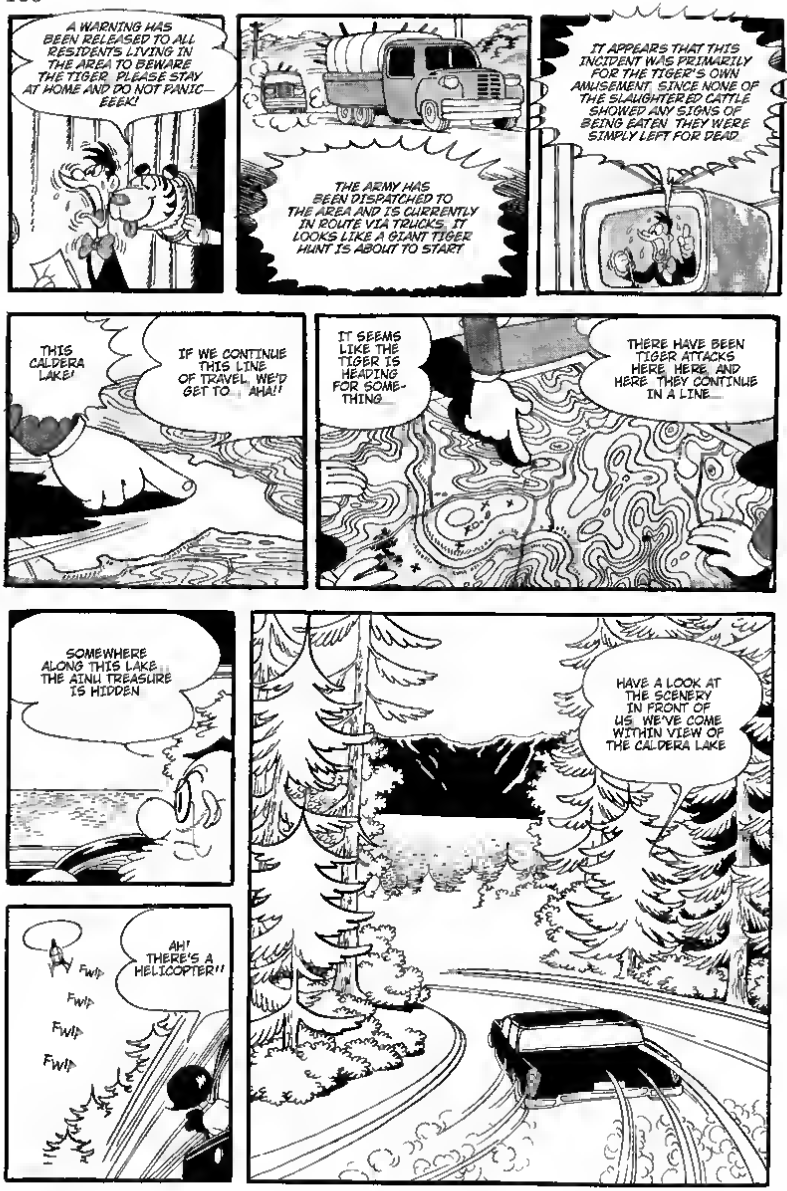
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU SHOULDN'T MEET HIM ANYMORE.
YOU CANNOT HANG AROUND WITH A TIGER ANY LONGER! YOU NEED TO BE WITH YOUR FELLOW HUMANS.
ARE YOU STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT TIGER?!
WHAT?!
ROOOAR
ROOOAR
AH! I CAN HEAR DAN!!
KOTAN, I WANT TO SEE YOU!! WE'VE BEEN APART FOR TOO LONG!!
ROOOAR
ROAR
DAN!!
DAN IS CALLING FOR ME!! I HAVE TO GO TO HIM!!
LET ME GO.
KOTAN PLEASE COME BACK TO ME!! WITHOUT YOU I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WILL DO!! I MIGHT GO CRAZY!!

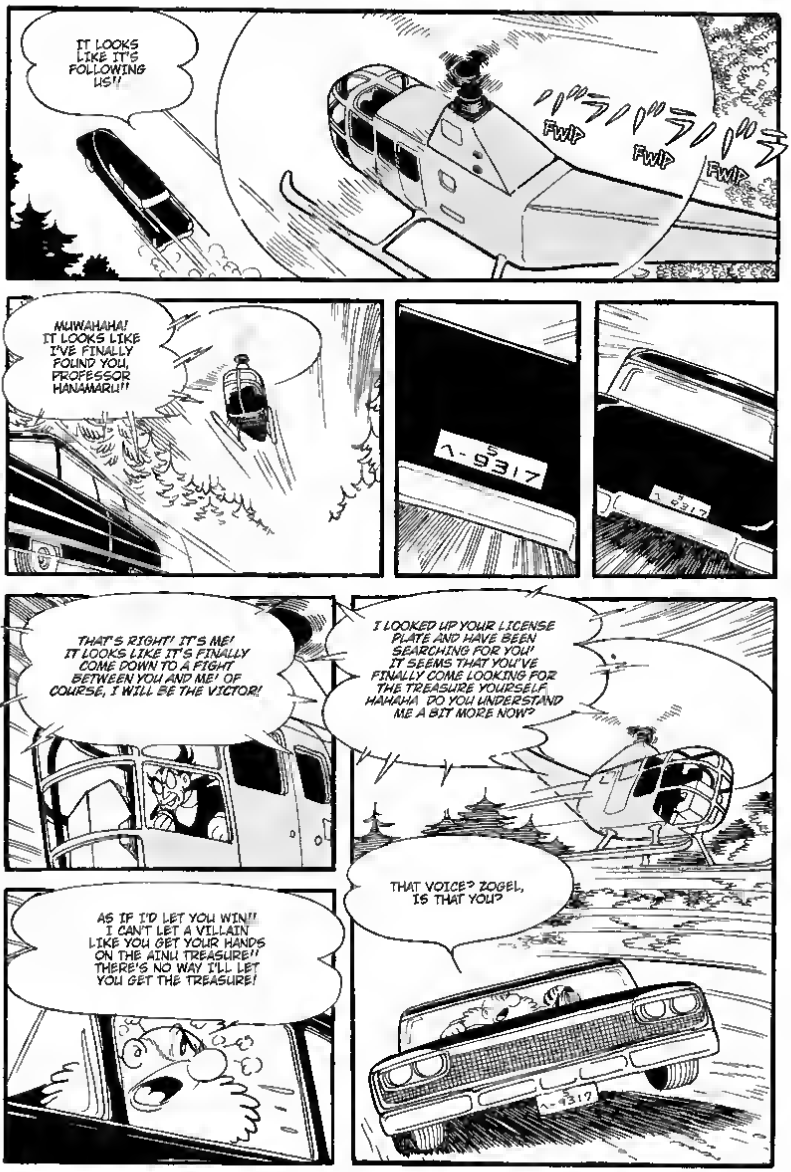
KOTAN... MY DEAR, DEAR BOY...
SNIFFLE SNIFFLE
YOU CAN'T GO, KOTAN!! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU?!

I'LL FIND KOTAN AND GET HIM OUT OF THERE!
I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER TONIGHT, I WILL SNEAK IN


THEY MUST'VE TAKEN KOTAN AWAY IN A CAR!!
CAR TRACKS!!
AH! THERE'S NOBODY HERE...
KOTAN!!
MOOOOO
MOOOOO
GET OUT OF THE WAY, COWS!!
THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY YOU'LL LET ME PASS
ONLY IMPALED ON MY HORNS!
LET ME PASS!! I HAVE TO GET THROUGH HERE!!
THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL LET YOU THROUGH THIS IS NO PLACE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!!

GRRRAH!!
MOOOO
MOO
YOU BASTARD
I'M FINISHED
THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS BULLETIN. A TIGER HAS BEEN REPORTED IN A RURAL AREA OF HOKKAIDO. IT APPARENTLY WENT ON A RAMPAGE AT A DAIRY FARM KILLING ONE BULL AND FIFTEEN COWS
PIGCOW
DUBU

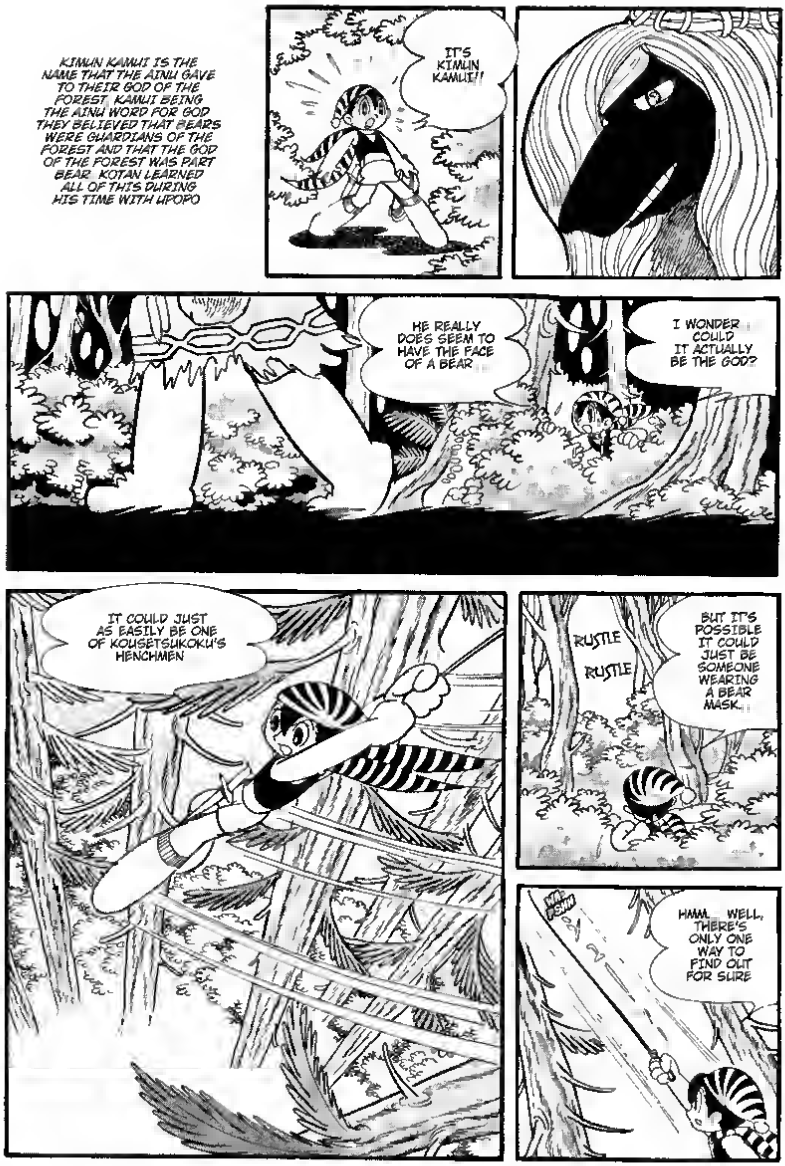

A WARNING HAS BEEN RELEASED TO ALL RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE AREA TO BEWARE THE TIGER. PLEASE STAY AT HOME AND DO NOT PANIC— EEEK!
THE ARMY HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE AREA AND IS CURRENTLY IN ROUTE VIA TRUCKS. IT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT TIGER HUNT IS ABOUT TO START
IT APPEARS THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS PRIMARILY FOR THE TIGER'S OWN AMUSEMENT, SINCE NONE OF THE SLAUGHTERED CATTLE SHOWED ANY SIGNS OF BEING EATEN. THEY WERE SIMPLY LEFT FOR DEAD.
THIS CALDERA LAKE!
IF WE CONTINUE THIS LINE OF TRAVEL, WE'D GET TO... AHA!!
IT SEEMS LIKE THE TIGER IS HEADING FOR SOMETHING...
THERE HAVE BEEN TIGER ATTACKS HERE, HERE, AND HERE. THEY CONTINUE IN A LINE...
SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS LAKE THE AINU TREASURE IS HIDDEN
HAVE A LOOK AT THE SCENERY IN FRONT OF US. WE'VE COME WITHIN VIEW OF THE CALDERA LAKE
AH! THERE'S A HELICOPTER!!
FWP
FWP
FWP
FWP

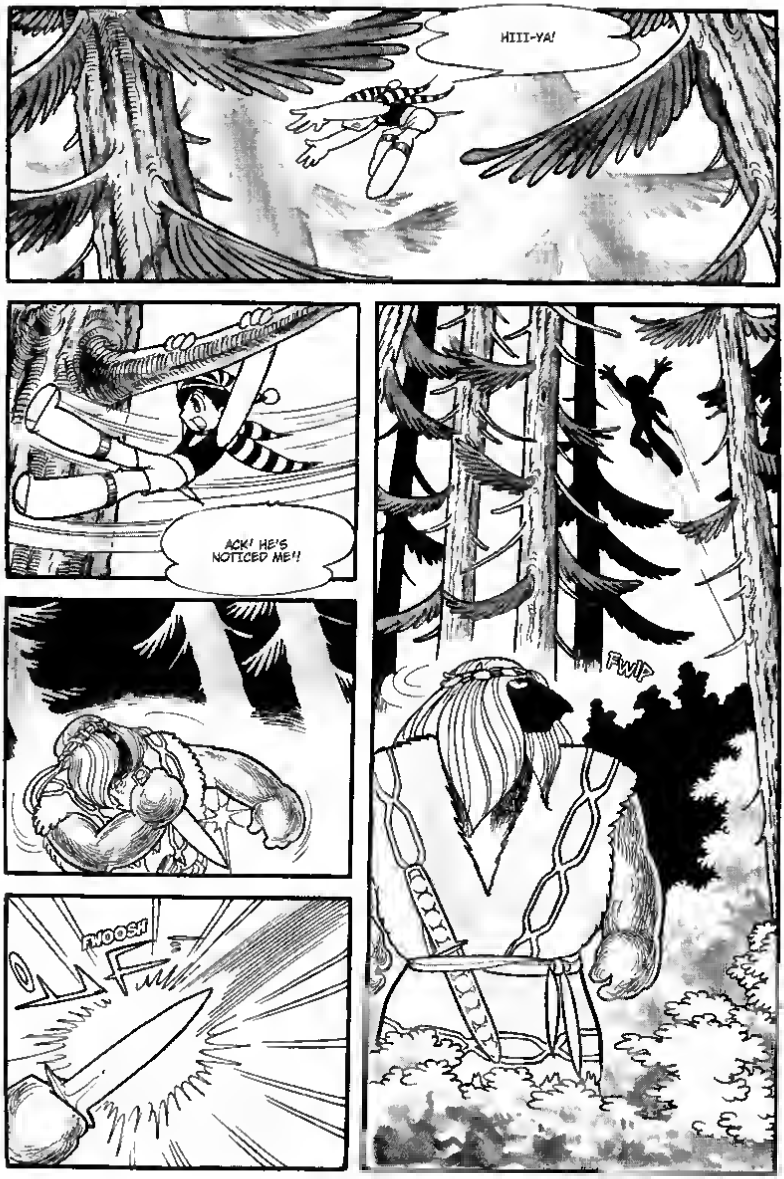

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S FOLLOWING US!!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
MUWAHAHA! IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU, PROFESSOR HANAMARU!!
A-9317
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S ME! IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINALLY COME DOWN TO A FIGHT BETWEEN YOU AND ME! OF COURSE, I WILL BE THE VICTOR!
I LOOKED UP YOUR LICENSE PLATE AND HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU! IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE FINALLY COME LOOKING FOR THE TREASURE YOURSELF. HAHAHA DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME A BIT MORE NOW?
THAT VOICE? ZOGEL, IS THAT YOU?
AS IF I'D LET YOU WIN!! I CAN'T LET A VILLAIN LIKE YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON THE AINU TREASURE!! THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET YOU GET THE TREASURE!

VRM
VRM
VRM
TO BE OR NOT TO BE, THAT IS THE QUESTION
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE THIS KEY, EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!!
I PRESUME THAT YOU'RE IN POSSESSION OF THE THIRD KEY. MAKE IT EASIER ON YOURSELVES AND JUST HAND IT OVER NICELY
HAHAHA! NOW YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE IN THAT CAR!! COME ON OUT AND MAKE THIS EASIER FOR ALL OF US
THUNK
VRM
VRM
PSHHH
AHHHH! WE'RE ON FIRE!!
ボ
FWOOSH
THEN ADD A MATCH AND...
FWUP!
AND NOW'S MY CHANCE...
PROFESSOR, IS THERE ANY EXTRA GASOLINE?
THERE'S SOME IN THE TRUNK
TAKE THAT!!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP

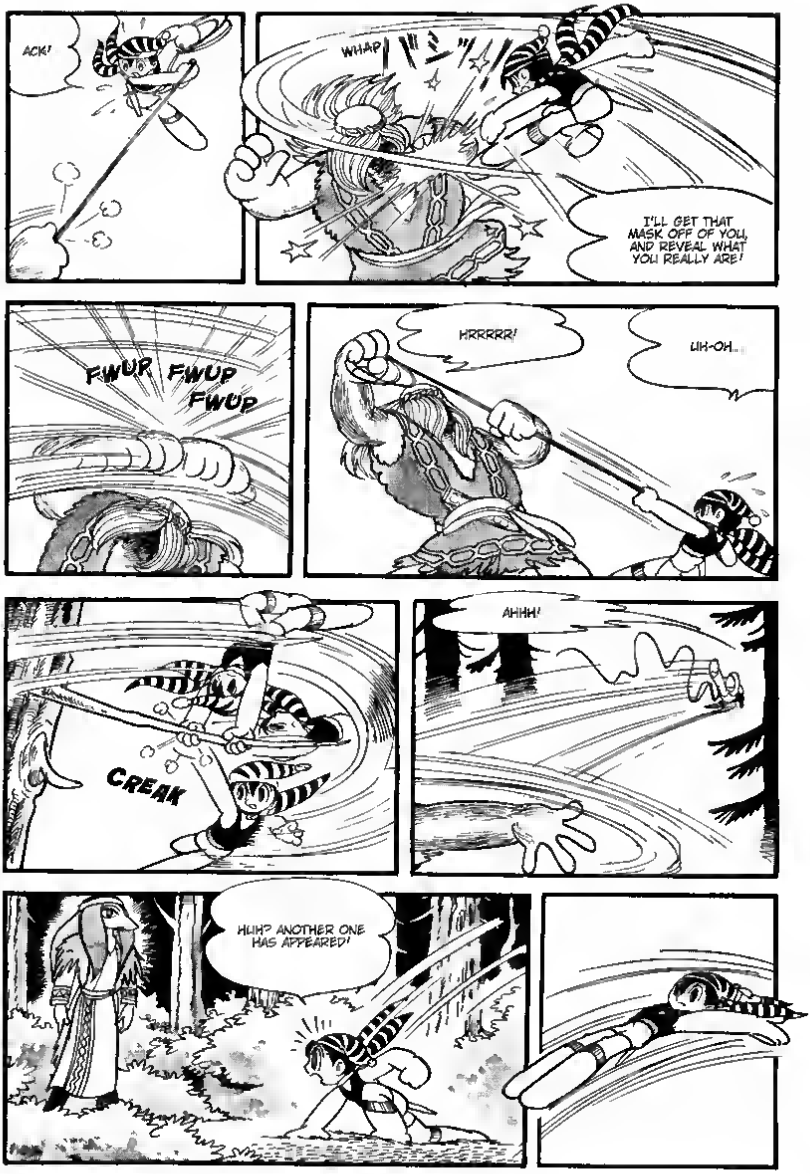
I'LL REMEMBER THIS, BOY!!
HOT HOT HOT HOT HOT HOT HOT
BUT THIS CAR'S FINISHED. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DRIVE THIS ANYMORE AND IT IS QUITE FAR UNTIL ANY TOWN...
HMM... I FEEL LIKE I'VE ENCOUNTERED THAT HELICOPTER BEFORE...
THANKS TO YOU, HE WON'T BE BOTHERING US FOR A LITTLE WHILE PLUS, WE STILL HAVE OUR KEY!! IF HE HAD GOTTEN IT EVERYTHING WOULD'VE BEEN OVER!
YOU DID IT, KOTAN!!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
DON'T WORRY WHATEVER IT IS, I'LL DEAL WITH IT...
IT'S SO LONELY OUT HERE PAPA...
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT...
I'M SCARED IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING COMING TO GET US!
HUH? DID ANYONE ELSE JUST HEAR THAT?

DASH
HMM... WHATEVER IT IS, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE COMING OUT. WELL THEN, I'LL GO IN AFTER IT
WHAT? W-WHO IS THIS?
I WONDER WHERE HE'S GOING...
ガサリ
ガサリ
HE'S SO BIG, LIKE A GIANT...


KIMUN KAMUI IS THE NAME THAT THE AINU GAVE TO THEIR GOD OF THE FOREST. KAMUI BEING THE AINU WORD FOR GOD. THEY BELIEVED THAT BEARS WERE GUARDIANS OF THE FOREST AND THAT THE GOD OF THE FOREST WAS PART BEAR. KOTAN LEARNED ALL OF THIS DURING HIS TIME WITH UPOPO
IT'S KIMUN KAMUI!!
HE REALLY DOES SEEM TO HAVE THE FACE OF A BEAR
I WONDER COULD IT ACTUALLY BE THE GOD?
IT COULD JUST AS EASILY BE ONE OF KOUSETSUKOKU'S HENCHMEN
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
BUT IT'S POSSIBLE IT COULD JUST BE SOMEONE WEARING A BEAR MASK.
HMM...
HAMM... WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT FOR SURE

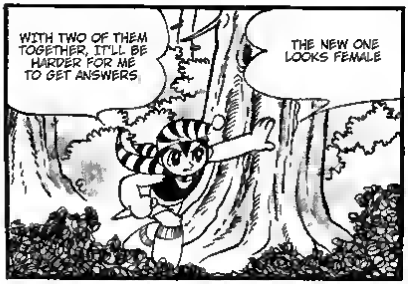

HIII-YA!
ACK! HE'S NOTICED ME!!
FWIP
WOOSH

FLASH
BOOM
LOOKS LIKE YOUR TRUE CHARACTER'S BEING REVEALED.
FWO!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A WEAPON LIKE THAT BEFORE. IT LOOKS LIKE A SWORD BUT IT SHOOTS SOMETHING. HMM.
YOU IMPOSTER!!
PSHH

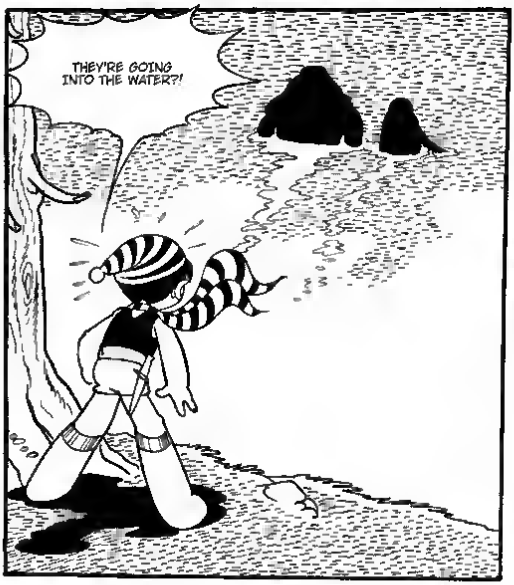

ACK!
WHAP!
I'LL GET THAT MASK OFF OF YOU, AND REVEAL WHAT YOU REALLY ARE!
FWUP FWUP FWUP
HRRRRR!
UH-OH...
CREAK
AHHH!
HUH? ANOTHER ONE HAS APPEARED!

UOO
OSHIDI

IRUSHIKA UEN...

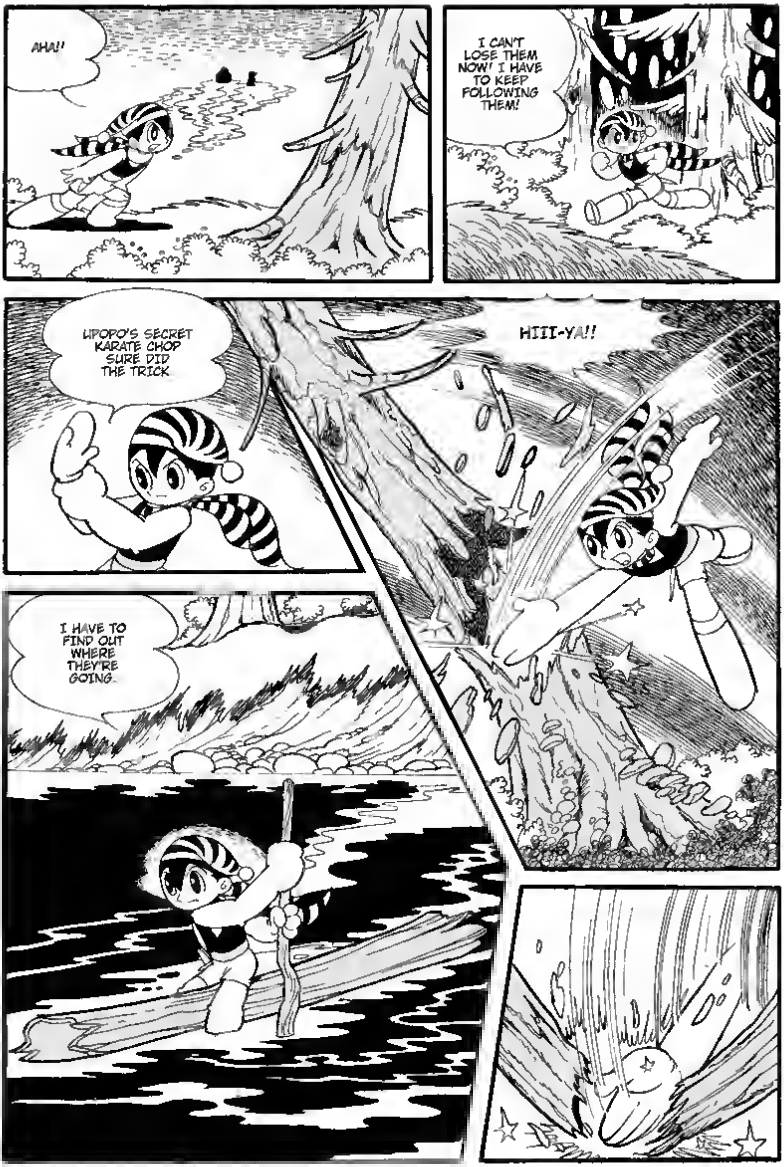

WITH TWO OF THEM TOGETHER, IT'LL BE HARDER FOR ME TO GET ANSWERS.
THE NEW ONE LOOKS FEMALE

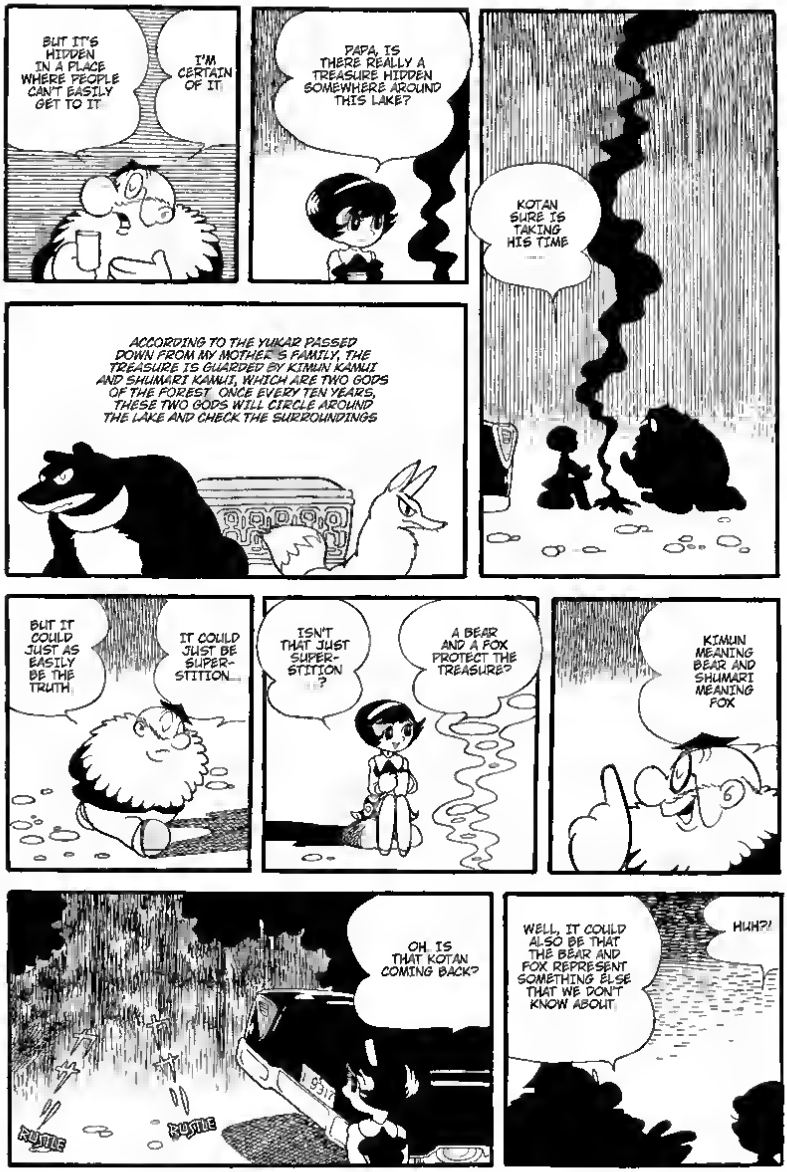
IT LOOKS LIKE THE NEW ONE GAVE SOME SORT OF COMMAND, AND THE LARGER ONE IS FOLLOWING IT...


THEY'RE GOING INTO THE WATER?!
GOOP

THAT'S STRANGE THE FOREST ENDS HERE

WHERE DID THOSE TWO GO— WHOA!
GASP


AHA!
I CAN'T LOSE THEM NOW! I HAVE TO KEEP FOLLOWING THEM!
UPOPO'S SECRET KARATE CHOP SURE DID THE TRICK
HIII-YA!!
I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

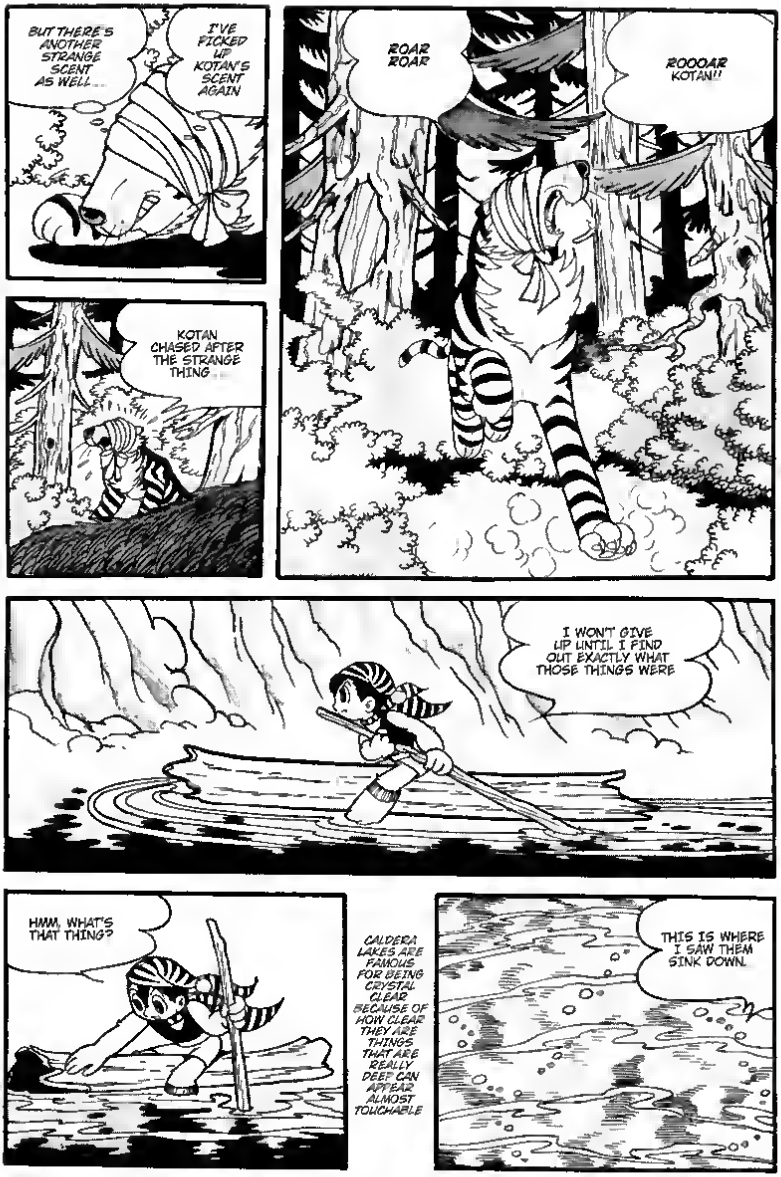

BUT IT'S HIDDEN IN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN'T EASILY GET TO IT
I'M CERTAIN OF IT
PAPA, IS THERE REALLY A TREASURE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE AROUND THIS LAKE?
KOTAN SURE IS TAKING HIS TIME
ACCORDING TO THE YUKAR PASSED DOWN FROM MY MOTHER'S FAMILY, THE TREASURE IS GUARDED BY KIMUN KAMUI AND SHUMARI KAMUI, WHICH ARE TWO GODS OF THE FOREST. ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS, THESE TWO GODS WILL CIRCLE AROUND THE LAKE AND CHECK THE SURROUNDINGS
BUT IT COULD JUST AS EASILY BE THE TRUTH
IT COULD JUST BE SUPER-STITION
ISN'T THAT JUST SUPER-STITION?
A BEAR AND A FOX PROTECT THE TREASURE?
KIMUN MEANING BEAR AND SHUMARI MEANING FOX
OH, IS THAT KOTAN COMING BACK?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WELL, IT COULD ALSO BE THAT THE BEAR AND FOX REPRESENT SOMETHING ELSE THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT
HUH?!

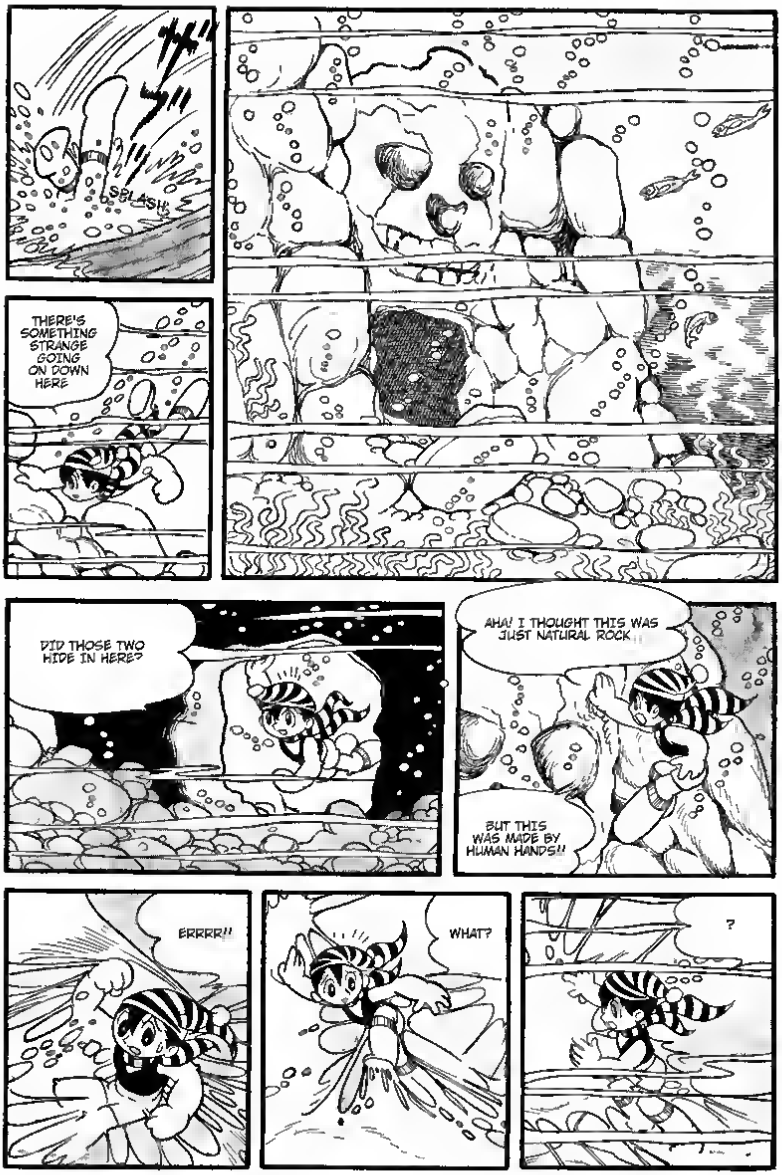
EEEEK!!
KOTAN, I SAVED SOME HOT TEA FOR YOU!!
IT'S A T-T-TIGER!!
YOU'RE THE ONES THAT TOOK HIM AWAY!! HIS SCENT IS IN YOUR CAR!!
ROOOAR
WE HAVE TO GET IN THE CAR!
I-93177

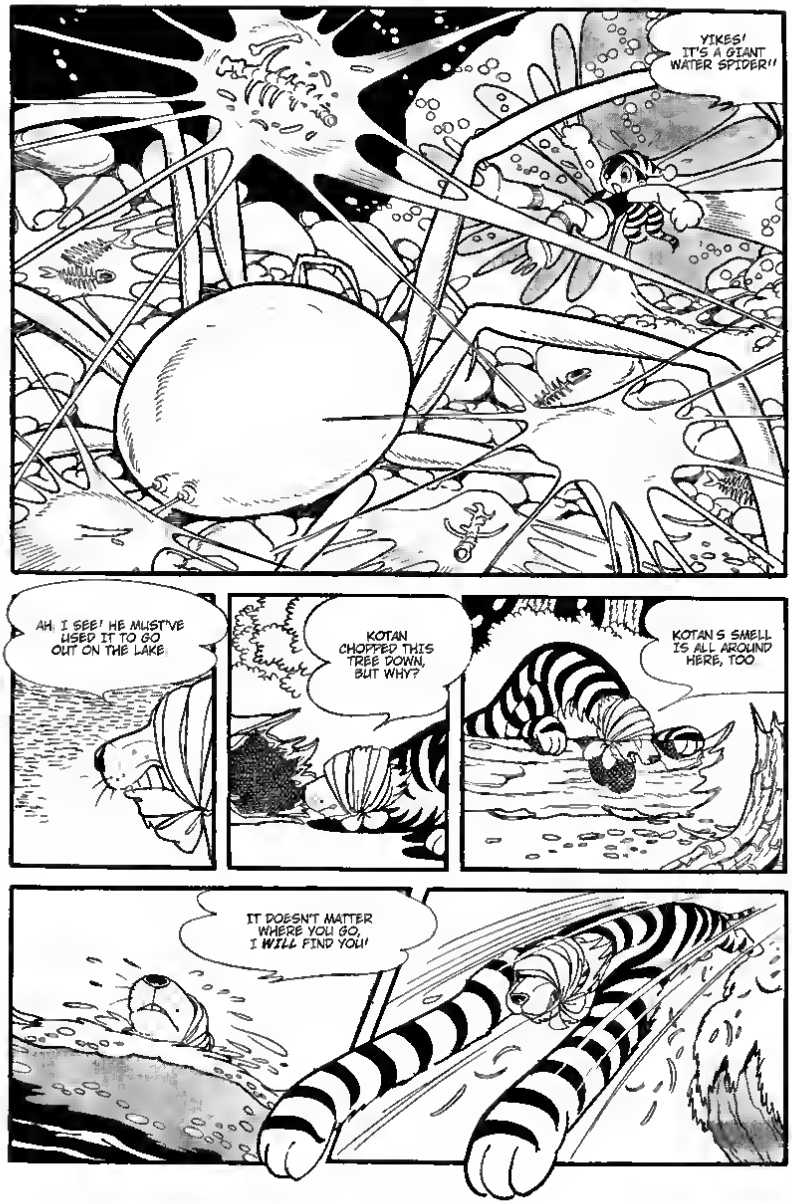
I ALSO DROPPED MY MONOCLE
ACK! MY DENTURES FELL OUT SOMEWHERE...
FAFA!
SUCH A VICIOUS BEAST!
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH KOTAN?!
THAT'LL SET OFF THE CAR ALARM!! WITH ANY LUCK THAT WILL SURPRISE HIM
HE'S GOING TO BREAK THROUGH THE WINDOW!!
CRACK
ROOOAR
CRASH!!
GET BACK, HE'S GOING TO RAM RIGHT INTO US!

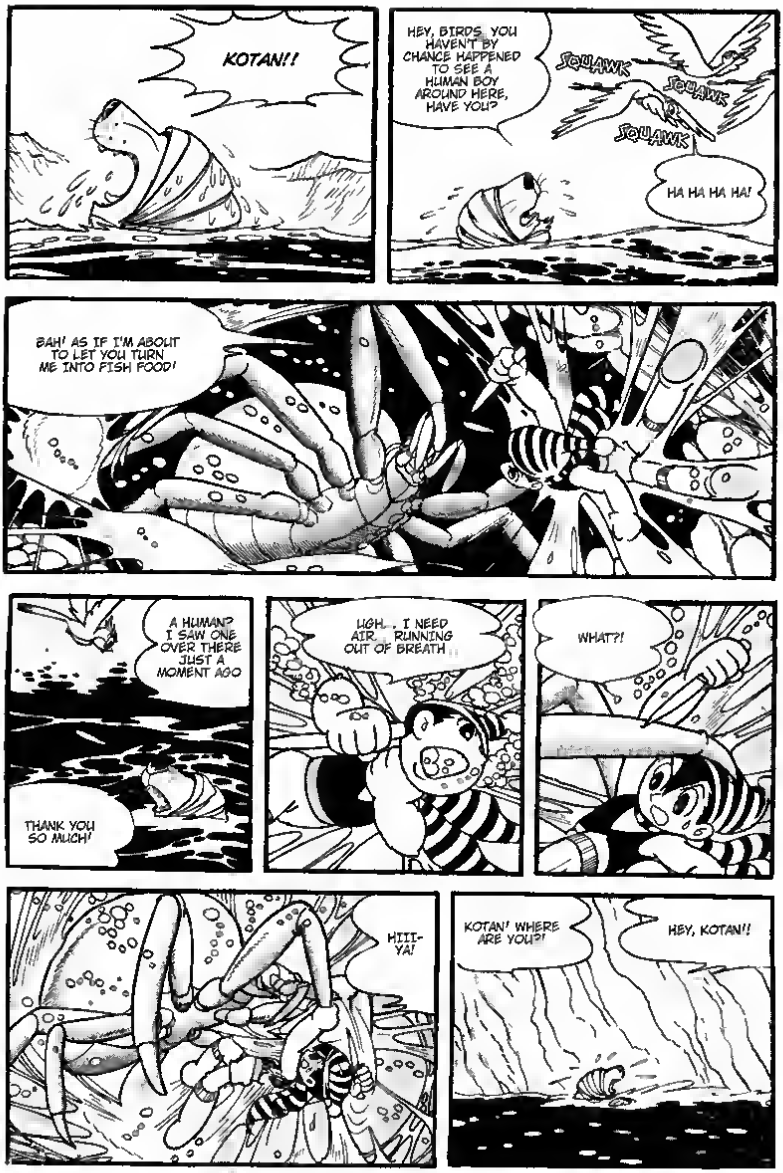
UHH... OOOH...
GRR... UH... OOOH... GUH.
LET GO, TAMAYO! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
PAPA, IT'S STILL DANGEROUS
STUPID TIGER! IT LOOKS LIKE HE GAVE HIMSELF A CONCUSSION
UHH. . UHH ...
YOU HUMAN EATING TIGER! THIS SHOT WILL PUT AN END TO YOU!
KILLING HIM NOW, LIKE THIS, WOULD JUST BE CRUEL!
DON'T DO IT! JUST LOOK AT HIM, HE'S PITIFUL!
STOP!!

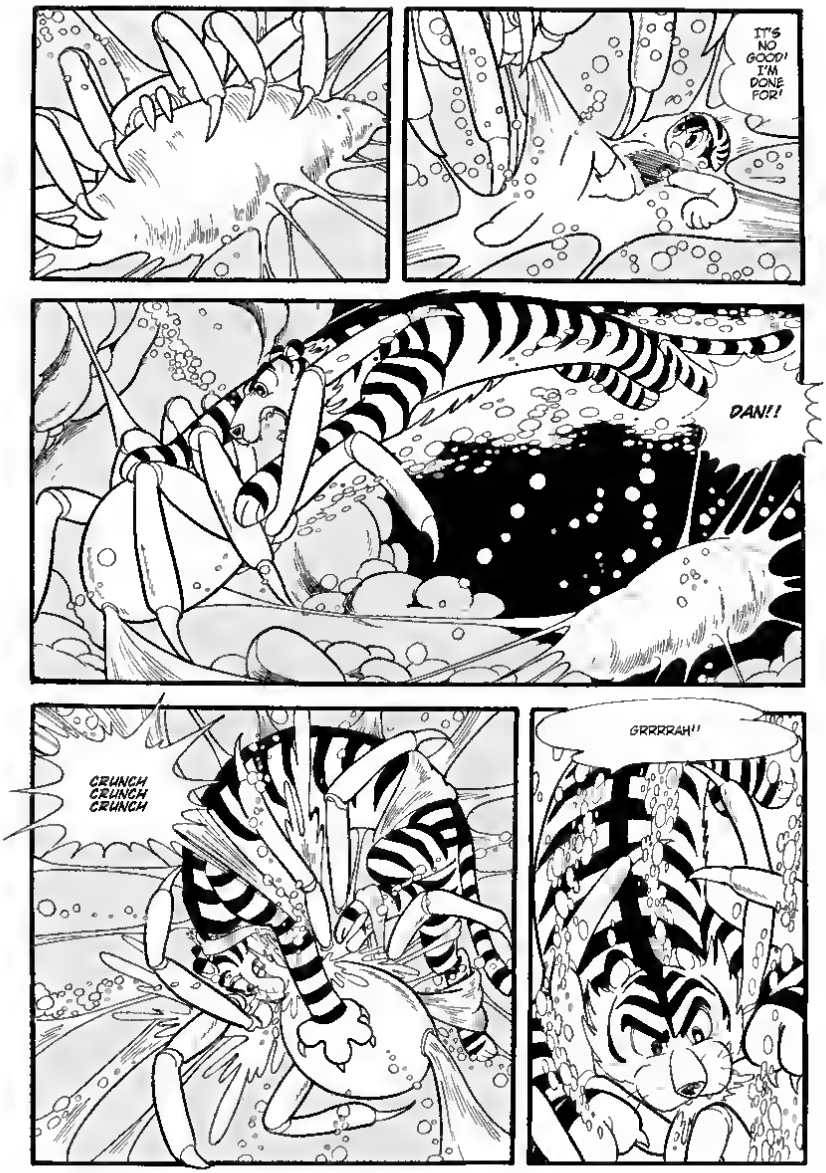
IF WE'RE GOING TO KILL HIM, SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL KOTAN HAS HAD A CHANCE TO SEE HIM ONE MORE TIME...
KOTAN, REALLY WANTED TO MEET THIS TIGER...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU CAN ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT, JUST LOOK AT THIS MONSTER!
PERFORMING FIRST AID ON A TIGER IS CERTAINLY A FIRST FOR ME BANDAGING WAS DIFFICULT...
HOW DID I COME TO HAVE SUCH A STRANGE CHILD? NOT ONLY DID YOU CONVINCE ME NOT TO KILL IT, BUT YOU ALSO GOT ME TO PERFORM FIRST AID ON IT...
DON'T WORRY, HE'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. BUT FOR NOW WE NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP
WHERE EVER DID KOTAN GET OFF TO?
HE SHOULDN'T DIE ON HIS OWN, FOR NOW ANYWAYS
THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD'VE JUST KILLED IT!
ACK! THE TIGER'S GONE!!
YAWWNN IS IT MORNING ALREADY?

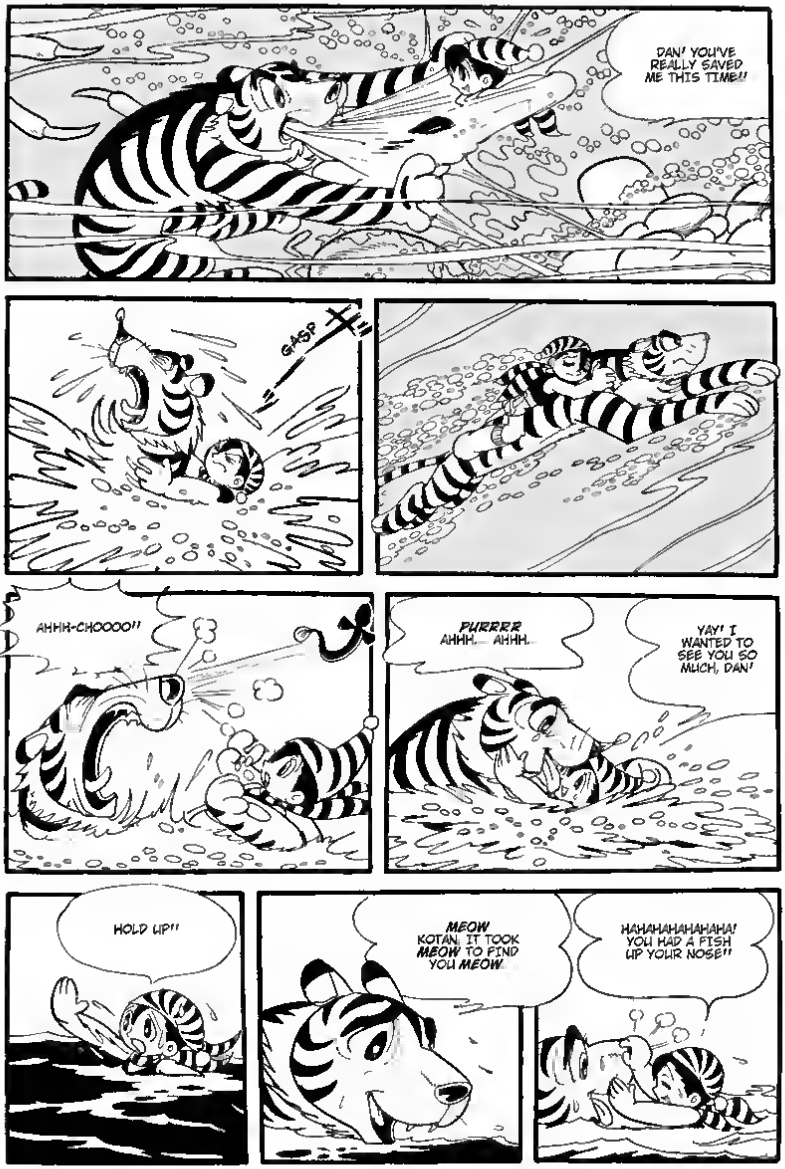

I'VE PICKED UP KOTAN'S SCENT AGAIN
BUT THERE'S ANOTHER STRANGE SCENT AS WELL...
ROAR ROAR
ROOOAR KOTAN!!
KOTAN CHASED AFTER THE STRANGE THING...
I WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL I FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT THOSE THINGS WERE
HMM, WHAT'S THAT THING?
CALDERA LAKES ARE FAMOUS FOR BEING CRYSTAL CLEAR BECAUSE OF HOW CLEAR THEY ARE THINGS THAT ARE REALLY DEEP CAN APPEAR ALMOST TOUCHABLE
THIS IS WHERE I SAW THEM SINK DOWN.


SPLASH!!
THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON DOWN HERE
DID THOSE TWO HIDE IN HERE?
AHA! I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST NATURAL ROCK
BUT THIS WAS MADE BY HUMAN HANDS!!
ERRRR!!
WHAT?
?

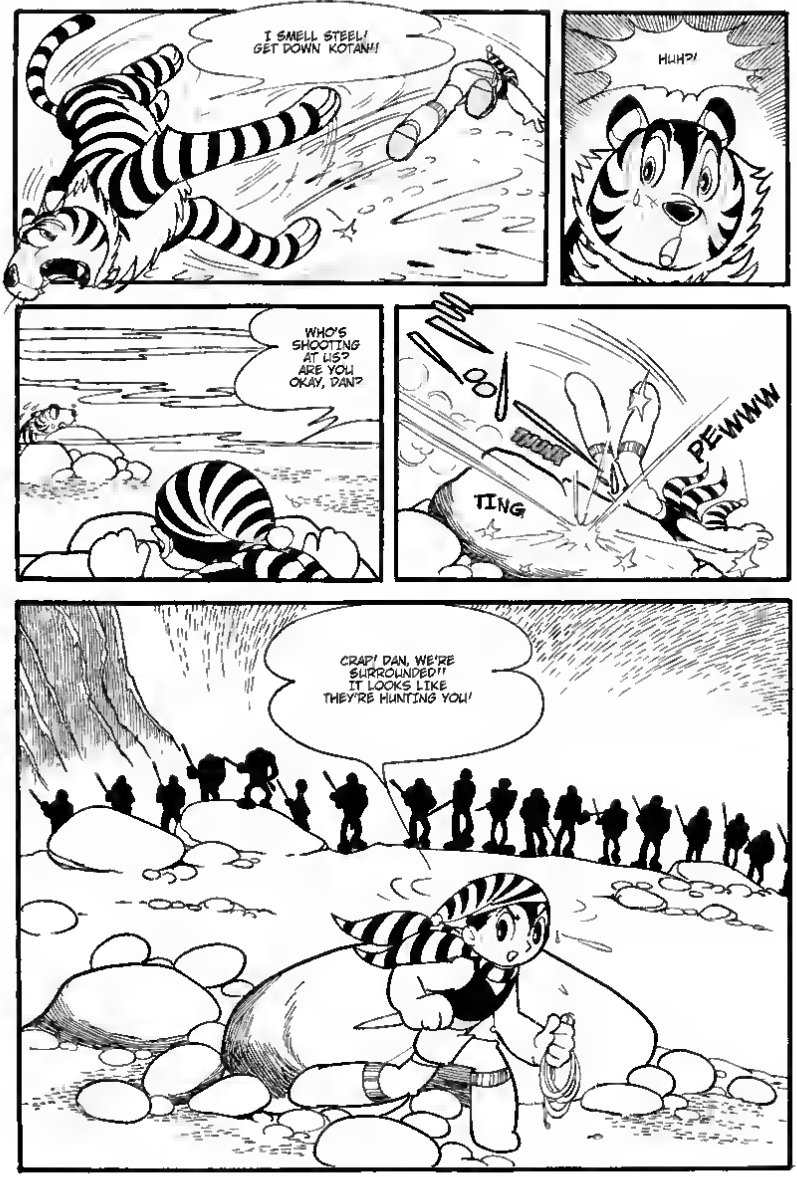

YIKES! IT'S A GIANT WATER SPIDER!!
AH, I SEE! HE MUST'VE USED IT TO GO OUT ON THE LAKE.
KOTAN CHOPPED THIS TREE DOWN, BUT WHY?
KOTAN'S SMELL IS ALL AROUND HERE, TOO
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU GO, I *WILL* FIND YOU!


KOTAN!!
HEY, BIRDS. YOU HAVEN'T BY CHANCE HAPPENED TO SEE A HUMAN BOY AROUND HERE, HAVE YOU?
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
HA HA HA HA!
BAH! AS IF I'M ABOUT TO LET YOU TURN ME INTO FISH FOOD!
A HUMAN? I SAW ONE OVER THERE JUST A MOMENT AGO
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
UGH.. I NEED AIR... RUNNING OUT OF BREATH...
WHAT?!
HIII-YA!
KOTAN! WHERE ARE YOU?!
HEY, KOTAN!!


IT'S NO GOOD! I'M DONE FOR!
DAN!!
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
GRRRRAH!!


DAN! YOU'VE REALLY SAVED ME THIS TIME!!
GASP
AHHH-CHOOOO!!
PURRRR
AHHH... AHHH...
YAY! I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO MUCH, DAN!
HOLD UP!!
MEOW. KOTAN, IT TOOK MEOW TO FIND YOU MEOW.
HAHAHAHAHAHA! YOU HAD A FISH UP YOUR NOSE!!

MEOW PROBABLY HAS MORE TO DO WITH HOW MUCH YOU'VE BEEN AROUND HUMANS LATELY.
COULD IT BE BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T BEEN TOGETHER IN A WHILE?
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING YOU.
JUST YOU AND ME, LET'S GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN WHERE NO ONE WILL BOTHER US AND WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE.
LET'S GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN.
WHAT? WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
MEOW GRRRR MEOW GO, MEOW.
KOTAN... I CAN'T BE AWAY FROM YOU ANYMORE IF IF YOU DECIDE TO GO LIVE WITH THE HUMANS... I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO...
I CAN'T RIGHT NOW, DAN. I NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE AINU TREASURE DOESN'T FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
DON'T GO! I WON'T LET YOU GO!!

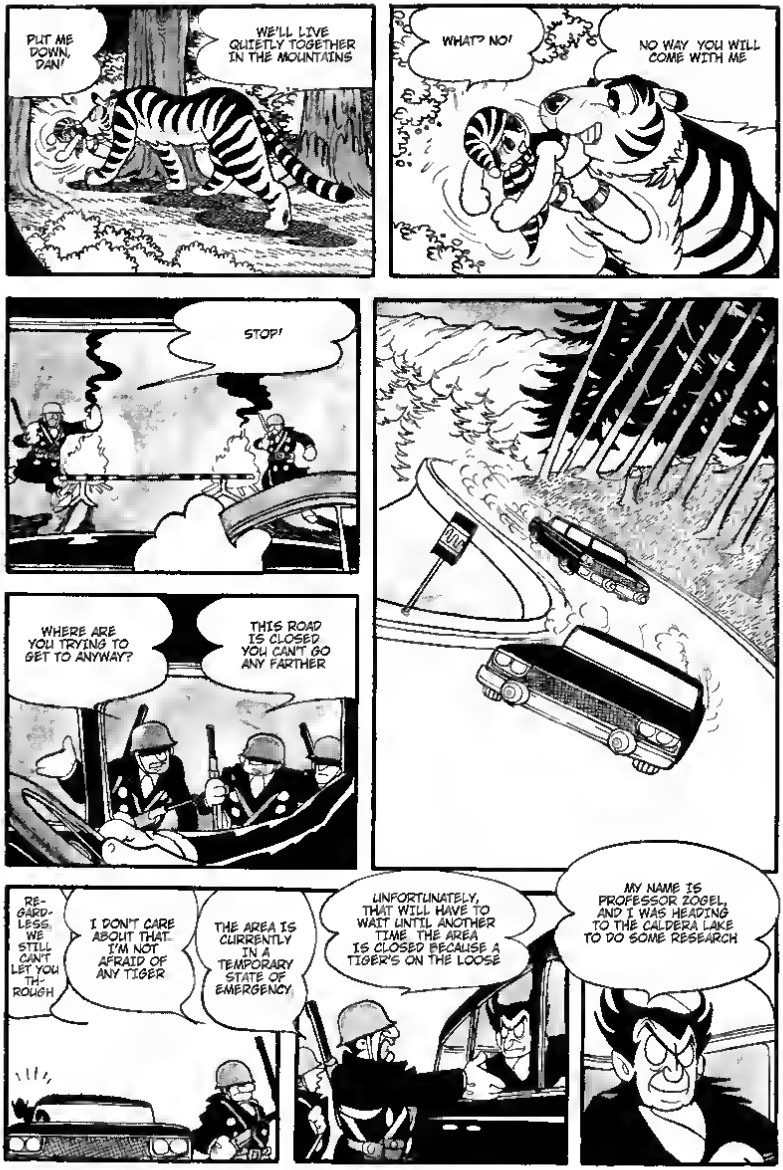

I SMELL STEEL! GET DOWN KOTAN!!
HUH?!
WHO'S SHOOTING AT US? ARE YOU OKAY, DAN?
TING
THUNK
PEWWW
CRAP! DAN, WE'RE SURROUNDED!! IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HUNTING YOU!

WAIT!!
DON'T SHOOT DAN! DON'T KILL HIM!! PLEASE, MISTER! DON'T DO ANYTHING TO HIM!!
ARE YOU ACCOMPANYING THE TIGER?
YES. DAN IS MY FRIEND WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE I WAS LITTLE
BOY, GET OUT OF HERE!
DON'T MEDDLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ARMY!!
PLEASE I WON'T LET DAN DO ANY MORE BAD THINGS. PLEASE! PLEASE JUST LET US GO!!
BUT BOY, WE'VE BEEN SENT OUT SPECIFICALLY TO FIND AND REMOVE THIS TIGER.

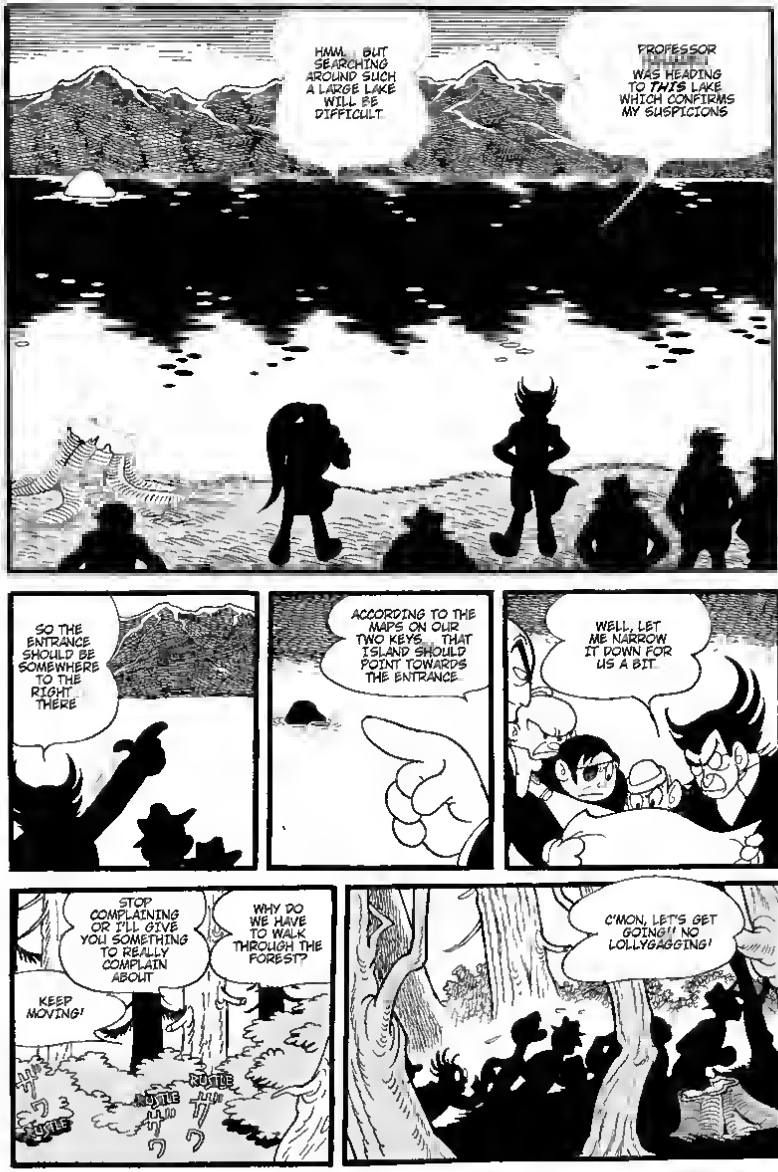
I WAS GOING TO BUY SOME NEW UNIFORMS WITH THE MONEY. LOOK AT MY UNIFORM RIGHT NOW.
THERE'S A BIG BOUNTY ON THAT TIGER'S HEAD AND I HOPE YOU WON'T FORGET THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SHARE THE BOUNTY AMONGST OUR ENTIRE UNIT!! THIS AFFECTS ALL OF US!
SERGEANT, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE CONSIDERING LETTING THE TIGER GO!
HERE! WATCH! DAN LISTENS TO EVERYTHING I SAY. HE'S A GOOD TIGER. DAN, SIT PLEASE
BUT YOU HAVE NO PROOF THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY DAN WHO DID IT!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT TIGER HAS DONE RECENTLY? HE KILLED CLOSE TO TWENTY COWS IN ONE GO!
DAN!! JUST DO IT! PLEASE!
HOW STUPID! AS IF I WOULD EVER IMITATE A DOG!
ALL RIGHT, DAN. HOW CAN YOU BEG FOR ME AND THEN TURN AROUND.
SEE?! LOOK HOW NICELY HE LISTENS.
GO ON!!
HOW ABOUT THIS. YOU KILL THE TIGER. I THINK THE TIGER WOULD BE HAPPIER WITH YOU PULLING THE TRIGGER. TOO
BOY, I KNOW THIS IS HARD FOR YOU, BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT TIGER LIVE

I... I CAN'T DO IT... WAAAA!!
KOTAN, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT GUN?
BANG
WHAT A USELESS BOY. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!

YOU HAVE THREE DAYS IF YOU DON'T KILL THE TIGER WITHIN THREE DAYS, WE'LL DO IT FOR YOU.
HMM... VERY WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TIME.
I JUST CAN'T DO IT. PLEASE, THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY. PLEASE GIVE ME TIME TO THINK.
WE HAVE THE AREA SURROUNDED AND WE'LL BE KEEPING A SHARP WATCH.
AND DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TO ESCAPE!!
I'M SO ANGRY!!
HMPH! MY UNIFORM HAS YET ANOTHER HOLE THANKS TO YOU!
DAN.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WE'RE FALLING BACK TO CAMP. FORM RANK! RIGHT TURN! MARCH!
I'LL STAY BEHIND AND APOLOGIZE TO THEM LATER
WHAT WILL YOU DO, KOTAN?
DAN, YOU HAVE TO GO BY YOURSELF. GO UP TO THE MOUNTAINS WHERE NO ONE CAN FIND YOU. QUICKLY!


PUT ME DOWN, DAN!
WE'LL LIVE QUIETLY TOGETHER IN THE MOUNTAINS
WHAT? NO!
NO WAY YOU WILL COME WITH ME
STOP!
WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO GET TO ANYWAY?
THIS ROAD IS CLOSED YOU CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER
RE-GARD-LESS. WE STILL CAN'T LET YOU TH-ROUGH
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT. I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANY TIGER
THE AREA IS CURRENTLY IN A TEMPORARY STATE OF EMERGENCY.
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL ANOTHER TIME. THE AREA IS CLOSED BECAUSE A TIGER'S ON THE LOOSE
MY NAME IS PROFESSOR ZOGEL AND I WAS HEADING TO THE CALDERA LAKE TO DO SOME RESEARCH

HEH HEH JUST SLEEP FOR A WHILE
HUUUP!!
URRRG!!
WE HAVE OUR ORDERS YOU CANNOT PASS
THEY SHOULD BE NICE AND WARM IN THE TRUNK OF OUR CAR
IT'D BE MOST UNFORTUNATE FOR THEM TO CATCH A COLD... LET'S BRING THEM WITH US
YOU TWO, TAKE OFF THEIR UNIFORMS AND PUT THEM ON
ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD BE SEARCHING FOR THE TREASURE WHILE THERE ARE SO MANY MILITARY PERSONNEL AROUND?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE.
VROOH
SO IS THIS THE SPOT?
YES, I'M SURE OF IT.
ARE WE EVEN SURE THAT THE TREASURE IS HIDDEN AROUND THIS LAKE?
IF WE WAIT, PROFESSOR HANAMARU COULD GET TO IT BEFORE US. I DON'T WANT TO RISK THAT


HMM... BUT SEARCHING AROUND SUCH A LARGE LAKE WILL BE DIFFICULT.
PROFESSOR [illegible] WAS HEADING TO THIS LAKE WHICH CONFIRMS MY SUSPICIONS
SO THE ENTRANCE SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE TO THE RIGHT THERE
ACCORDING TO THE MAPS ON OUR TWO KEYS... THAT ISLAND SHOULD POINT TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE
WELL, LET ME NARROW IT DOWN FOR US A BIT.
STOP COMPLAINING OR I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO REALLY COMPLAIN ABOUT
WHY DO WE HAVE TO WALK THROUGH THE FOREST?
KEEP MOVING!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
C'MON, LET'S GET GOING!! NO LOLLYGAGGING!

HUH?!
ガサリ
RUSTLE
ガサリ
RUSTLE
GRR... I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU, BUT...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAN? YOU'VE SMELLED SOMETHING, HAVEN'T YOU?
AND NOT JUST ANY HUMANS
HUMANS HAVE BEEN BY HERE!!
DAN PLEASE I MUST GO AND TRY TO STOP THEM PLEASE, LET ME GO
SO THEY'VE FINALLY MADE IT THIS FAR!!
WHAT? YOU SMELLED SOME OF KOUSETSUKOKU'S HENCHMEN?
TAILS
HEADS OR TAILS ?

IT'LL BE FASTER CATCHING UP TO THEM LIKE THIS.
WHY?
ALL RIGHT. GET ON, KOTAN!!
SHH! WE'RE GETTING CLOSE!
DAN, WILL YOU LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH? WILL YOU HELP ME YET AGAIN?
YUP, I'VE GIVEN UP FIGHTING YOU. YOU'VE SET YOUR MIND TO THIS. AND I WILL HELP AS BEST I CAN.
I'LL GO ABOVE US AND SEE WHAT THEY'RE UP TO..
ALL RIGHT!

HEY!! WE'VE FOUND IT!! IT'S OVER HERE!!
HERE IT IS! THIS IS IT!! THIS HAS TO BE THE DOORWAY TO THE BURIAL CHAMBER!!
SHH, JUST WATCH
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HMM?!

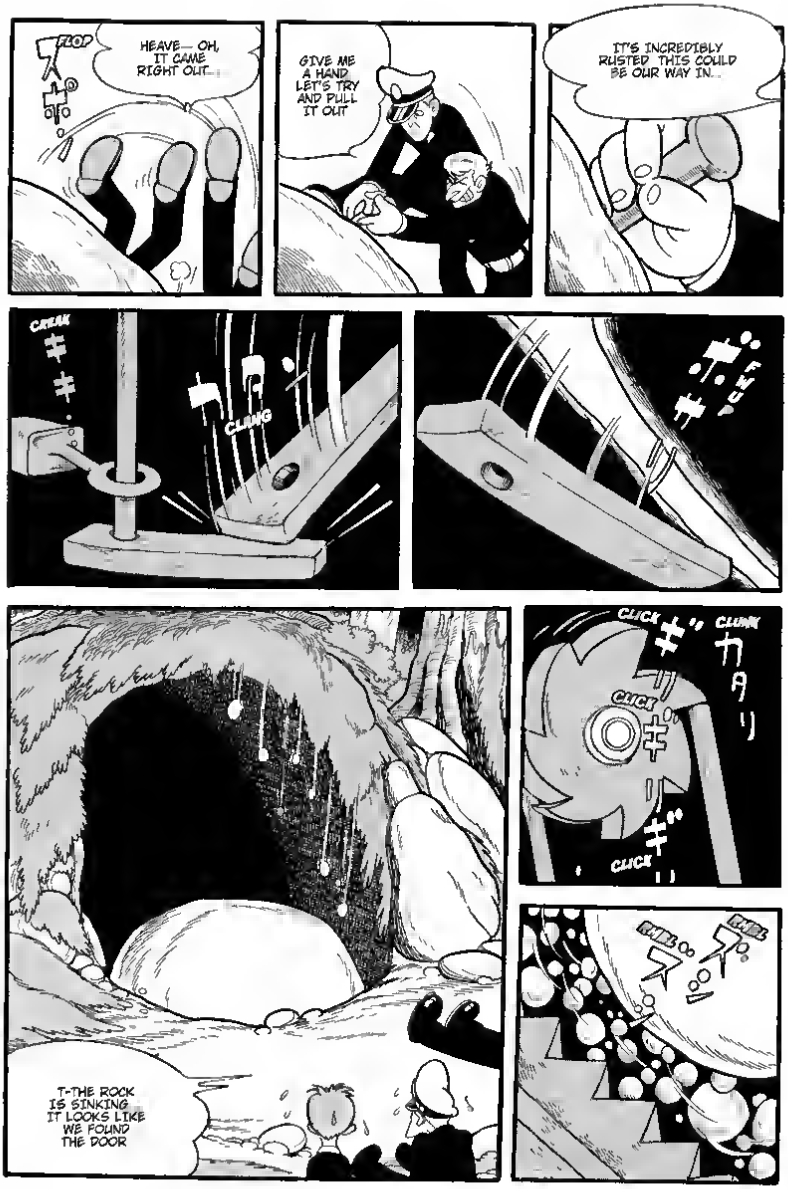
WE'VE GOT A LITTLE BRAT SPYING ON US!!
BANG
HE JUST KEEPS ON COMING AFTER US HE'S LIKE A LITTLE WEASEL OR SOMETHING
THAT BOY IS HERE?! HOW?!
THUMP
AOK!!

JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP PESTERING US?
BANG
HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES TO GET YOU TO STOP GOING AFTER THE AINU TREASURE!
ARGH!
ROOOAR
WATCH OUT! THE TIGER'S HERE, TOO!
BANG
BANG

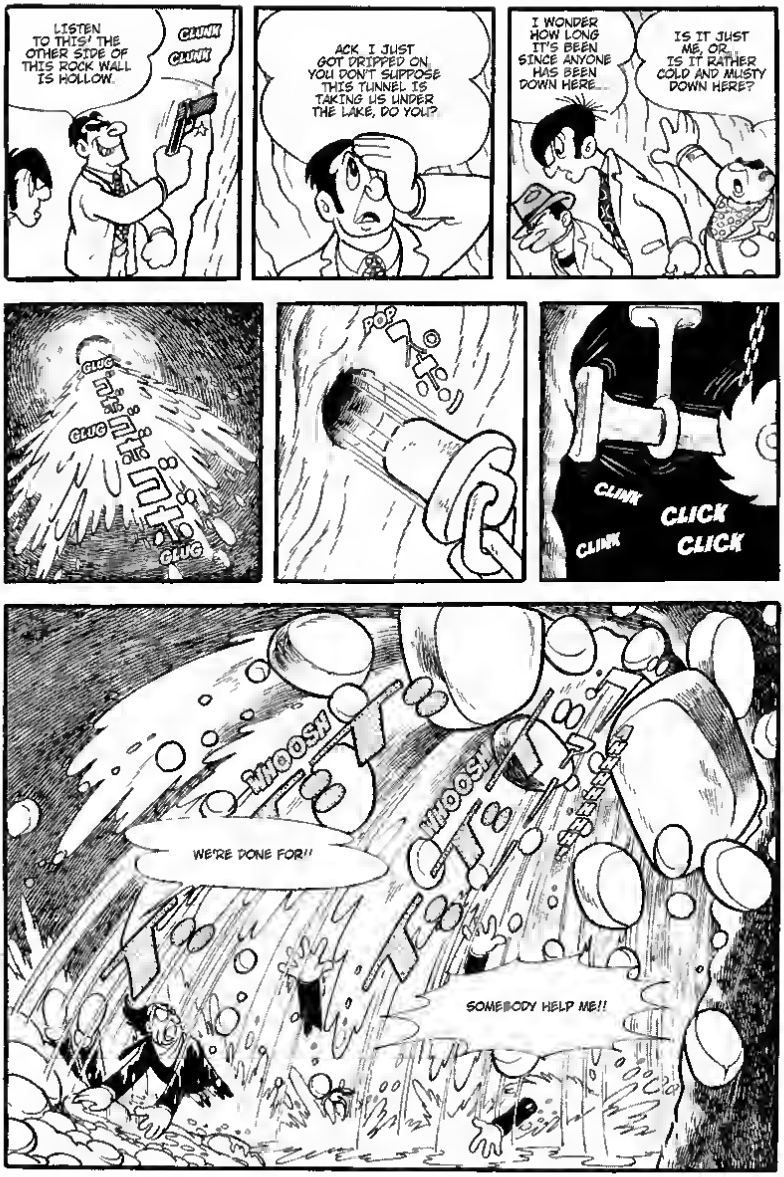
SOMEBODY SHOOT IT! ANYBODY! QUICKLY!!
I-IT'S THAT TIGER THAT THE GUARDS WERE TALKING ABOUT! BE CAREFUL!!
KOTAN. SO WE MEET AGAIN AT LAST. I'VE BEEN HOPING TO MEET YOU AGAIN, TO PAY YOU BACK FOR LAST TIME
AHHHH! HE BIT OFF MY NOSE!!
GYAAA!!
THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT WHO IS STRONGER JUST THE TWO OF US, NO TIGER NO HENCHMEN. WHO WILL SURVIVE?
WELL, I GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT SHORTLY NOW WHICH IS FASTER, MY GUN OR YOUR WHIP?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I'D LOSE TO THE LIKES OF YOU, KOUSETSUKOKU!!

ガチャリ
CRASH
STOP BEING SO STUPID!!
UGH...!
FSSHHH
FSSHHH
FSSHHH
KOTAN!!
HAKK HAKK HAKK URG... HAKK
WHAT? COWARDLY ?!
PROFESSOR ZOGEL, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BUTT IN LIKE THAT AND DO SOMETHING SO COWARDLY?!
HAKK HAKK HAKK
ROAR!!
ROOOAR

HAHAHA! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO HAVE HAD IT. TIE THEM UP! QUICKLY!
HAKK HAKK
CAN'T BREATHE... HAKK HAKK
PROFESSOR, THIS CHILD'S A DISTINGUISHED WARRIOR. I WANTED TO FIGHT HIM FAIRLY ONE ON ONE, TO FIND OUT WHO WAS STRONGER!
IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOUR CHILDISH FIGHTING CAME TO AN END...
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU, BOY. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU DO IT, SO LONG AS YOU WIN.
I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE, BUT IT CAN WAIT UNTIL LATER... WHEN I HAVE MORE TIME TO ENJOY MYSELF.
WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING TO DO TO US, JUST DO IT ALREADY
STOP FOOLING AROUND!!
IDIOT!!
THERE SEEMS TO BE A LYNCHPIN STUCK IN HERE, BETWEEN THESE ROCKS
WHAT? DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?!
THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE HERE
HMM...

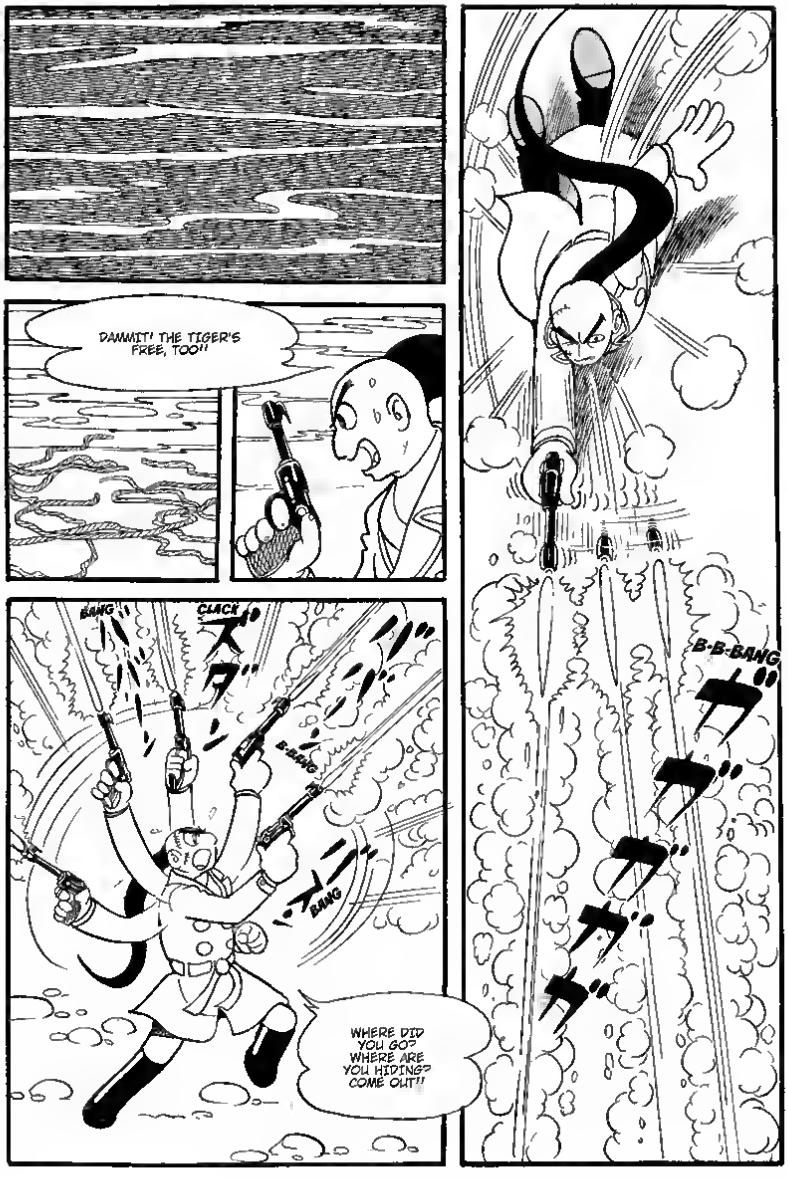

FLOP
HEAVE— OH, IT CAME RIGHT OUT...
GIVE ME A HAND LET'S TRY AND PULL IT OUT
IT'S INCREDIBLY RUSTED THIS COULD BE OUR WAY IN...
CREAK
CLANG
CLICK
CLUNK
CLICK
CLICK
T-THE ROCK IS SINKING IT LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND THE DOOR
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

HMM... THAT TUNNEL LOOKS LIKE IT COULD HAVE TRAPS IN IT. NOBODY MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT TRAPS...
HOLY MOLEY! WHO KNEW REMOVING ONE LITTLE PIN WOULD MOVE THAT BIG ROCK...
THIS IS DEFINITELY THE ENTRANCE TO THE AINU TREASURE!!
IT'S OPENED UP TO A TUNNEL
THIS IS FANTASTIC!!
MUWAHAHA!
STOP BEING SUCH BABIES. C'MON, LET'S GO!
WAIT A SECOND! ARE WE GOING TO JUST LEAVE THE KID UP HERE LIKE THIS UNWATCHED?
YOU'RE RIGHT, WE SHOULD LEAVE SOMEBODY TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM...
THIS IS AMAZING, ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE A NATURAL CAVE, THIS WAS CLEARLY CREATED BY HUMANS
I'LL STAY BEHIND AND WATCH. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK THE BOY ABOUT.
FINE, JUST MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T ESCAPE

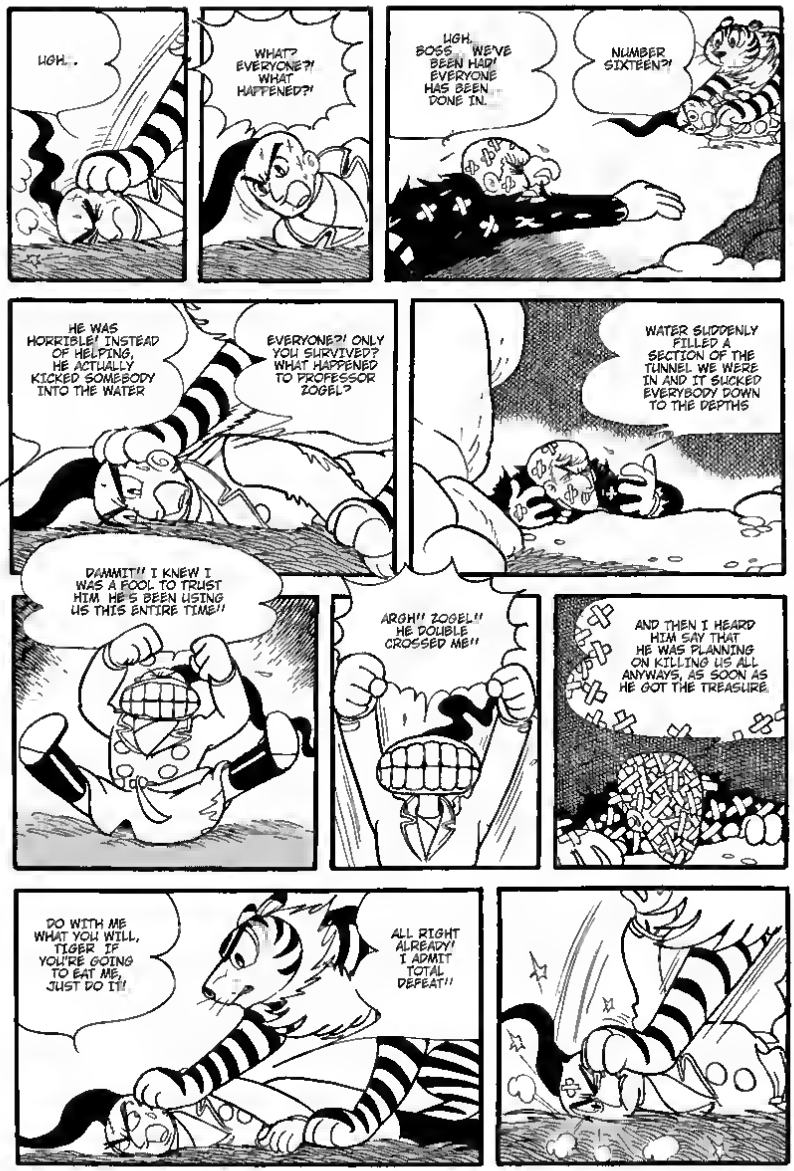

LISTEN TO THIS! THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS ROCK WALL IS HOLLOW.
CLUNK
CLUNK
ACK, I JUST GOT DRIPPED ON. YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THIS TUNNEL IS TAKING US UNDER THE LAKE, DO YOU?
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE ANYONE HAS BEEN DOWN HERE...
IS IT JUST ME, OR, IS IT RATHER COLD AND MUSTY DOWN HERE?
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
POP
CLINK
CLINK
CLICK
CLICK
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WE'RE DONE FOR!!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!!

PLEASE, GIVE ME A HAND. THE WATER IS PULLING ME...
P-P-PROFESSOR, HELP
GLUB GLUB GLUB
OH, JUST SHUT UP!!
P-PROFESSOR, PLEASE!!
A PRETTY FEARSOME TRAP. PROBABLY DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE GRAVE ROBBERS
IT APPEARS THAT THEY'VE BEEN COMPLETELY SWALLOWED UP.
I WAS PLANNING ON GETTING RID OF THEM ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ANYWAY.
A GOOD RIDDANCE IF YOU ASK ME THOUGH

I WANTED TO FINISH YOU MYSELF, BUT THERE'S NO FUN OR HONOR IN SHOOTING YOU WHILE YOU'RE TIED UP.
IT'S TAKEN US MUCH LONGER TO FIND THE TREASURE THANKS TO YOU, BUT I HAVE TO SAY THAT I LIKE YOU. YOU'VE GOT GUTS, KID. AND I LIKE THAT.
YOU'VE CAUSED US A LOT OF TROUBLE, BOY.
RRRIP
RIP
GRRRR...
HOW ABOUT NOW? I'M NOT TIED UP ANYMORE! C'MON, LET'S DO THIS!!
SON OF A— FOR SUCH A SMALL CHILD TO HAVE SUCH STRENGTH...
RIP
RIP
ACK!!

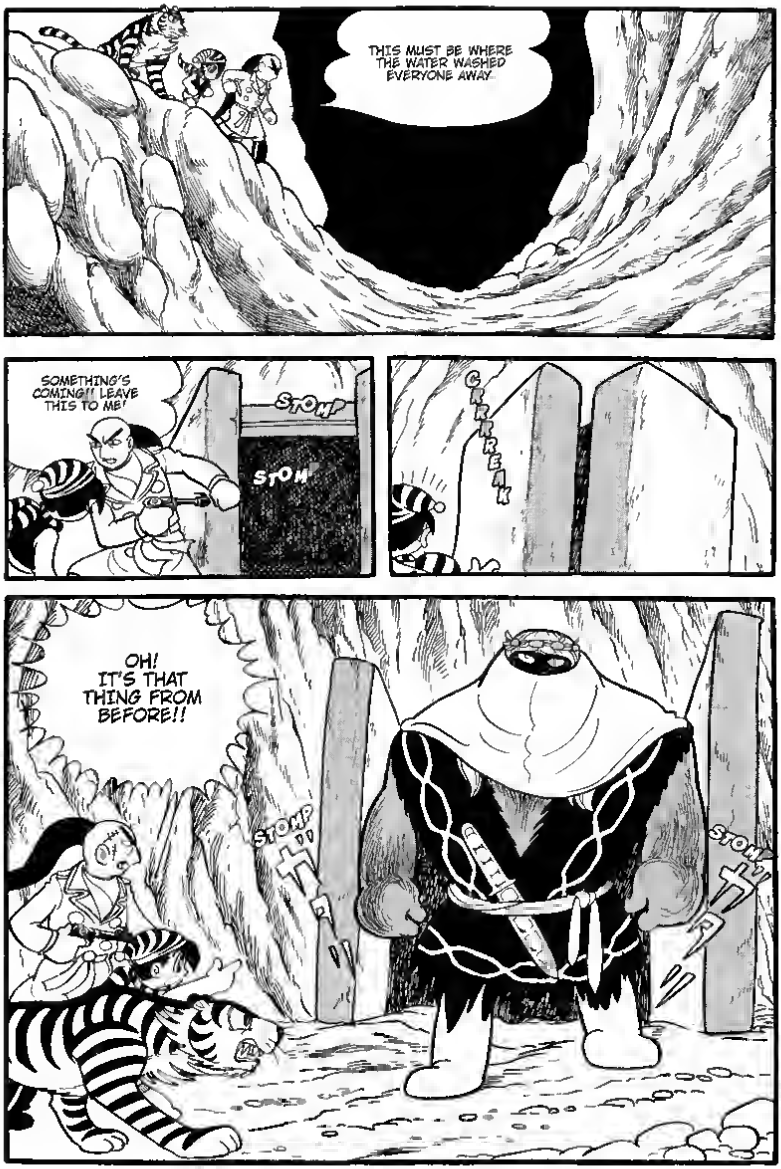

DAMMIT! THE TIGER'S FREE, TOO!!
BANG
CLACK
B-BANG
BANG
WHERE DID YOU GO? WHERE ARE YOU HIDING? COME OUT!!
B-B-BANG

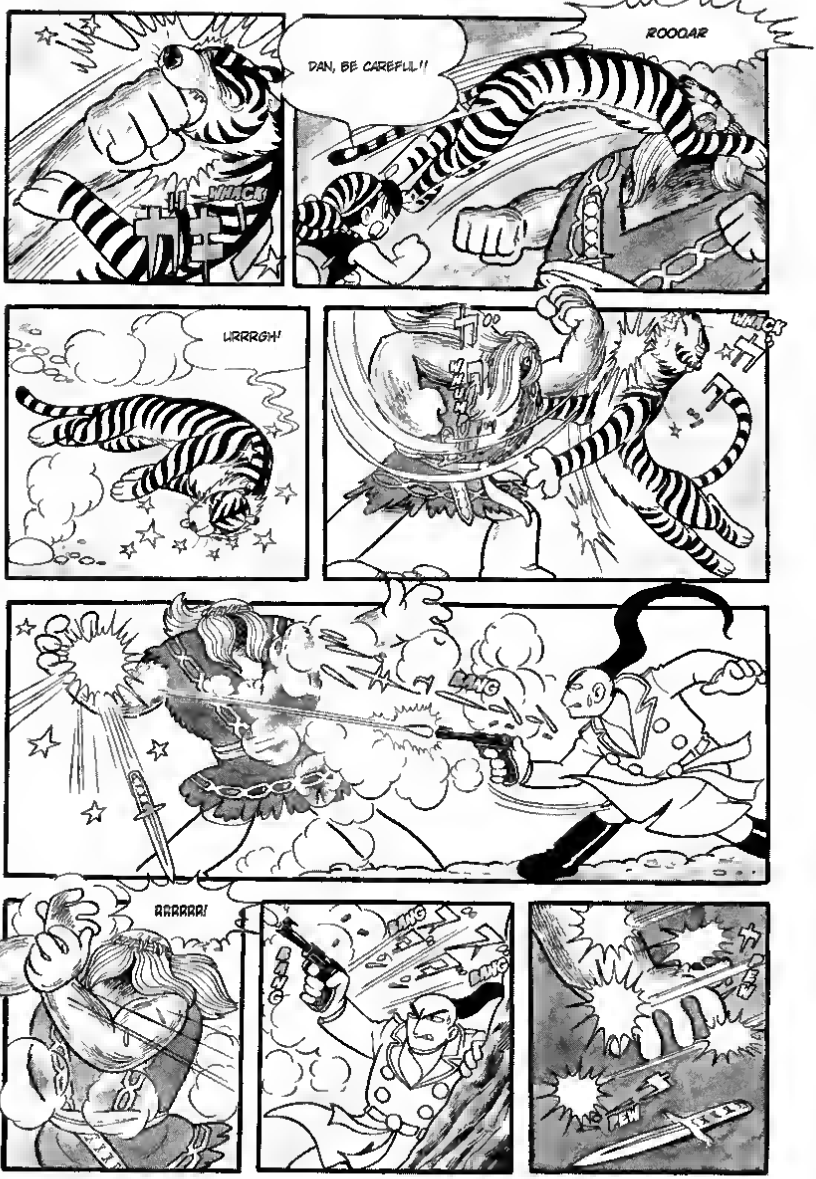
WHICH TREE ARE YOU HIDING IN?
I'M RIGHT AT YOUR FEET!!
WA-
PSHH
AHAHAHA! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE JUST LOOKING UP AFTER ALL..
DAMMIT!!
ROAR
UGH.. AUGH.. CRAP.. UHH..
DAN, SOMEONE'S COMING UP FROM THE CAVE
DAMMIT DEFEATED AGAIN...


UGH...
WHAT? EVERYONE?! WHAT HAPPENED?!
UGH. BOSS... WE'VE BEEN HAD! EVERYONE HAS BEEN... DONE IN.
NUMBER SIXTEEN?!
HE WAS HORRIBLE! INSTEAD OF HELPING, HE ACTUALLY KICKED SOMEBODY INTO THE WATER
EVERYONE?! ONLY YOU SURVIVED? WHAT HAPPENED TO PROFESSOR ZOGEL?
WATER SUDDENLY FILLED A SECTION OF THE TUNNEL WE WERE IN AND IT SUCKED EVERYBODY DOWN TO THE DEPTHS
DAMMIT!! I KNEW I WAS A FOOL TO TRUST HIM. HE'S BEEN USING US THIS ENTIRE TIME!!
ARGH!! ZOGEL!! HE DOUBLE CROSSED ME!!
AND THEN I HEARD HIM SAY THAT HE WAS PLANNING ON KILLING US ALL ANYWAYS, AS SOON AS HE GOT THE TREASURE.
DO WITH ME WHAT YOU WILL, TIGER. IF YOU'RE GOING TO EAT ME, JUST DO IT!
ALL RIGHT ALREADY! I ADMIT TOTAL DEFEAT!!

WE WERE POOR. ALWAYS BARELY SURVIVING. WHEN I WAS AROUND YOUR AGE, I LEFT HOME AND STARTED TRAVELLING.
BUT LET ME TELL YOU MY STORY FIRST... I WAS BORN IN THE FAR WEST OF CHINA. I'M ONE OF THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE UYGHUR PEOPLES WHO USED TO LIVE THERE. BUT OUR VILLAGES WERE DESTROYED AND OUR PEOPLE SCATTERED. MUCH LIKE THE AINU PEOPLE.
I JUST KEPT WANDERING. I HAD NO GOAL, NO TARGET, NO ASPIRATIONS...
EVENTUALLY, I CAME TO HATE THE ENTIRE WORLD... I THOUGHT THAT EVERYONE DESERVED TO BE MISERABLE. SO I BECAME A CRIMINAL AND GANGSTER.
STRANGERS WERE ALWAYS CRUEL AND MEAN...
I DIDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF COURAGE. HOWEVER, MY EYES HAVE BEEN OPENED NOW AND I'M READY FOR MY PUNISHMENT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TRY TO CORRECT YOUR WAYS AND COME CLEAN?
BUT WHEN I HEARD YOUR STORY, IT MADE ME EMBARRASSED OF MYSELF. I HAD TO REEXAMINE MY LIFE.

I AM PREPARED FOR DEATH DO IT QUICKLY!
ALL RIGHT, TIGER GET THIS OVER WITH!! JUST MAKE IT QUICK AND CLEAN
KOUSETSUKOKU, I THINK THAT YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN BORN AGAIN IN THIS CHANGE OF HEART YOU'VE HAD WHAT DO YOU SAY, WHY NOT JOIN AND HELP US?!
DAN, YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD TIGER!
SLURP
ペロリ
ONCE YOU CATCH ZOGEL'S SCENT, BE EXTRA CAREFUL HE'S VERY DANGEROUS WE'RE GOING TO CATCH UP TO ZOGEL AND THEN FIND THE TREASURE
OKAY! DAN, YOU TAKE THE LEAD AND BE CAREFUL!!
YOU AND I HAVE HAD SIMILAR LIFE EXPERIENCES, I'M SURE THAT WE CAN BECOME FRIENDS
YOU TRULY ARE AN AMAZING KID I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO ASSIST YOU AND PAY BACK THIS DEBT.


THIS MUST BE WHERE THE WATER WASHED EVERYONE AWAY.
SOMETHING'S COMING!! LEAVE THIS TO ME!
STOMP
STOM
GRRREAK
OH! IT'S THAT THING FROM BEFORE!!
STOMP
STOMP

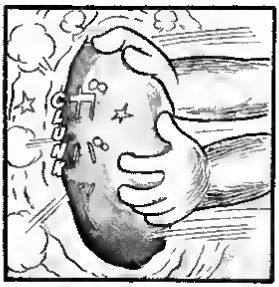

DAN, BE CAREFUL!!
ROOOAR
WHACK
URRRGH!
WHACK
BANG
AAAAAA!
BANG
BANG
BANG
SWEW

HE IS JUST TOO STRONG.
HE'S TEARING OFF BOULDERS FROM THE WALL AND THROWING THEM...
I CAN'T GET CLOSE TO HIM
GIAI GIAI GIAIAIAI!
OH NO! IT'S A DEAD END!
LET'S TRY AND HIDE DOWN ONE OF THESE SIDE TUNNELS.
HO HO HO HO HO
THERE IS NO ESCAPE YOU ARE TRAPPED! NOW, PREPARE YOURSELVES
HO HO HO HO HO
IT'S THE FEMALE ONE
HO HO HO HO HO
WHAT'S THIS? WHERE IS THAT LAUGHING COMING FROM?
TWITCH
WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU GUARDING THE TREASURE? WHO TOLD YOU TO GUARD THE TREASURE?
WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE TREASURE. WE HAVE GUARDED THIS TREASURE FOR MANY YEARS AND NO ONE HAS ESCAPED ALIVE FROM US

AND IN THAT TIME, NEARLY TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN TRYING TO STEAL THE TREASURE.

WE ARE THE GUARDIAN GODS OF THIS GRAVE AND TREASURE. WE HAVE GUARDED THIS TREASURE FOR ALMOST THREE THOUSAND YEARS NOW.

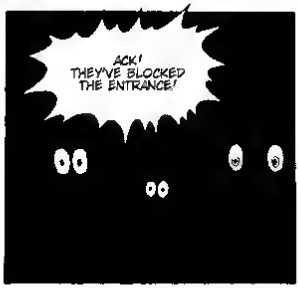
NO ONE HAS ESCAPED ALIVE AFTER ENTERING OUR DOMAIN. THEY HAVE ALL DIED LIKE DOGS DOWN HERE IN THE DEPTHS.

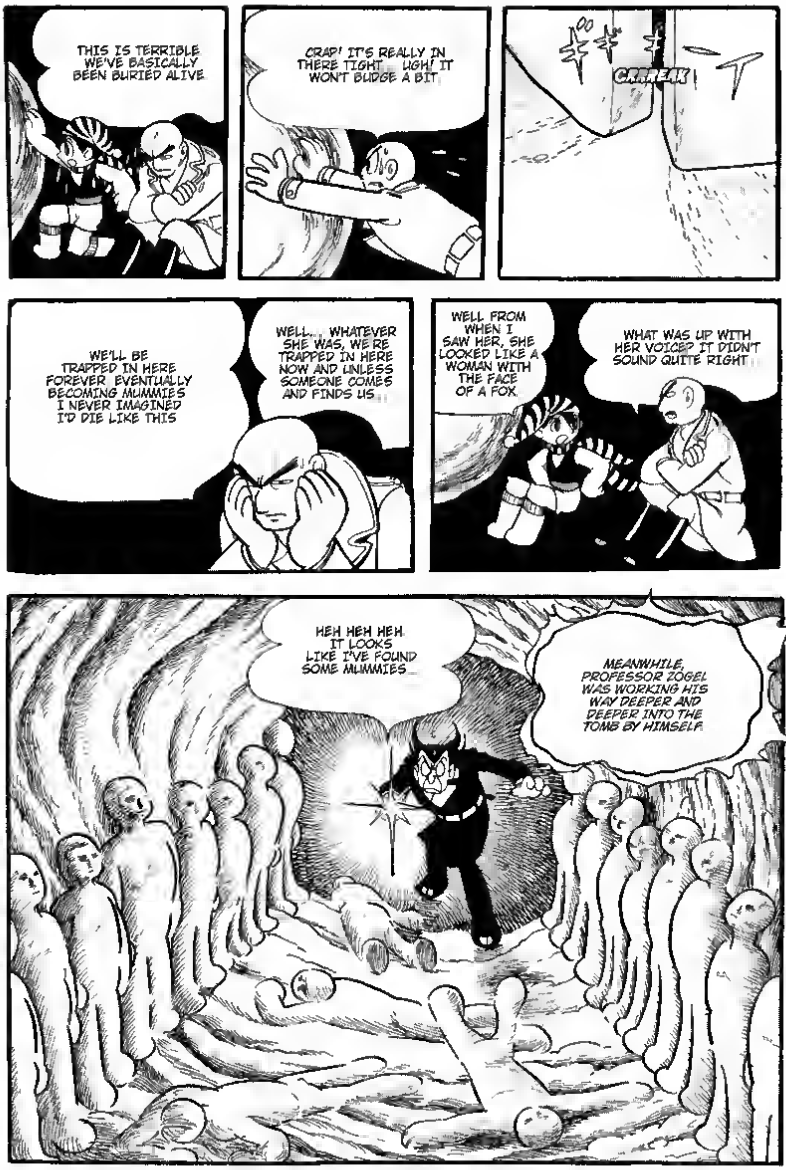

CLUNK

CLOSE IT. THEY ARE FINISHED.

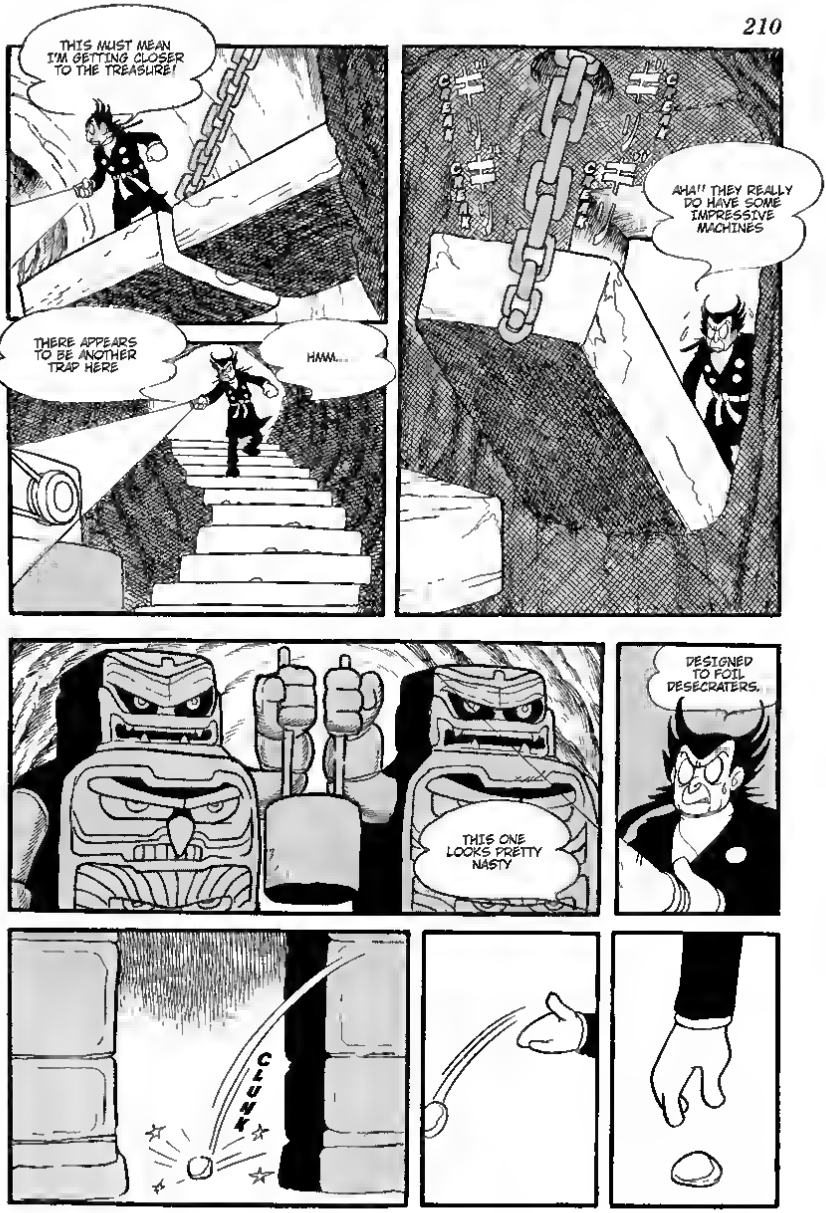
YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE SUCH A FARFETCHED STORY!!

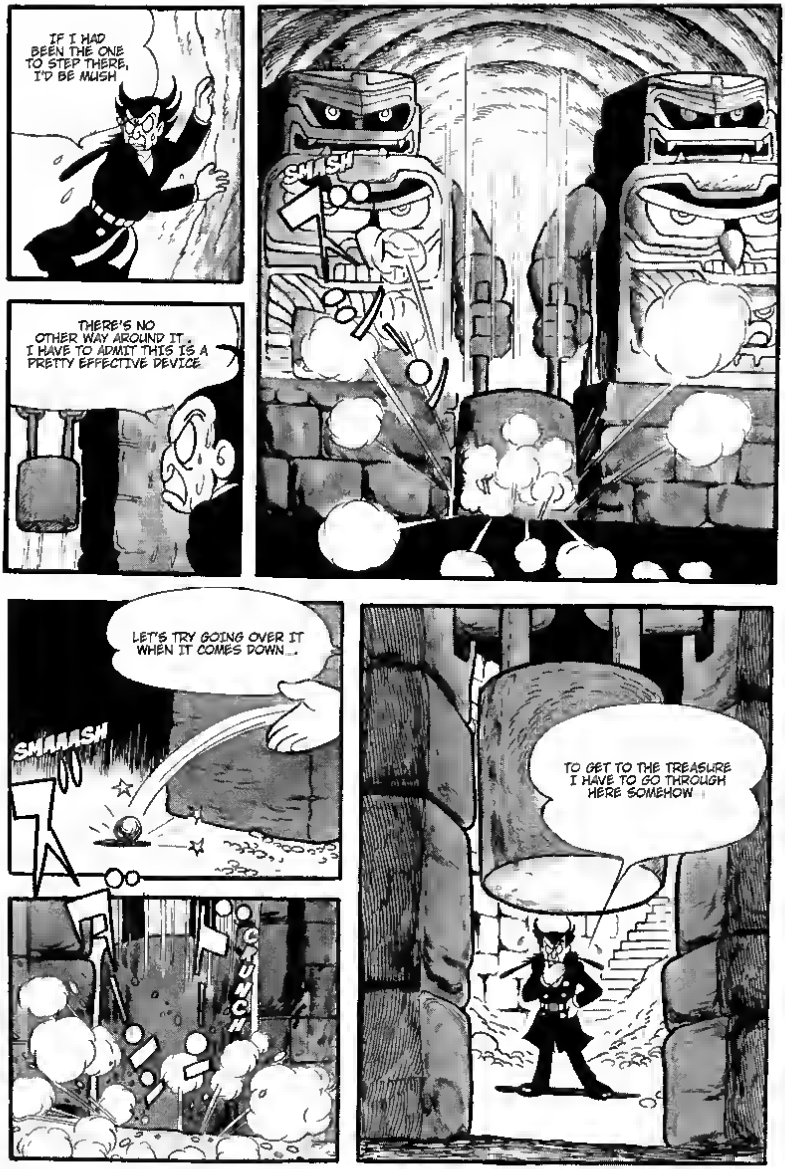
I HOPE THAT YOU ARE HAPPY WITH THE HOLE YOU ARE IN. FOR IT WILL SOON BECOME YOUR GRAVE. HO HO HO HO!
SHUDDER


ACK! THEY'VE BLOCKED THE ENTRANCE!


THIS IS TERRIBLE WE'VE BASICALLY BEEN BURIED ALIVE
CRAP! IT'S REALLY IN THERE TIGHT... UGH! IT WON'T BUDGE A BIT
CRRRRK
WE'LL BE TRAPPED IN HERE FOREVER EVENTUALLY BECOMING MUMMIES I NEVER IMAGINED I'D DIE LIKE THIS
WELL... WHATEVER SHE WAS, WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE NOW AND UNLESS SOMEONE COMES AND FINDS US...
WELL FROM WHEN I SAW HER, SHE LOOKED LIKE A WOMAN WITH THE FACE OF A FOX.
WHAT WAS UP WITH HER VOICE? IT DIDN'T SOUND QUITE RIGHT...
HEH HEH HEH IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE FOUND SOME MUMMIES...
MEANWHILE, PROFESSOR ZOGEL WAS WORKING HIS WAY DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE TOMB BY HIMSELF.

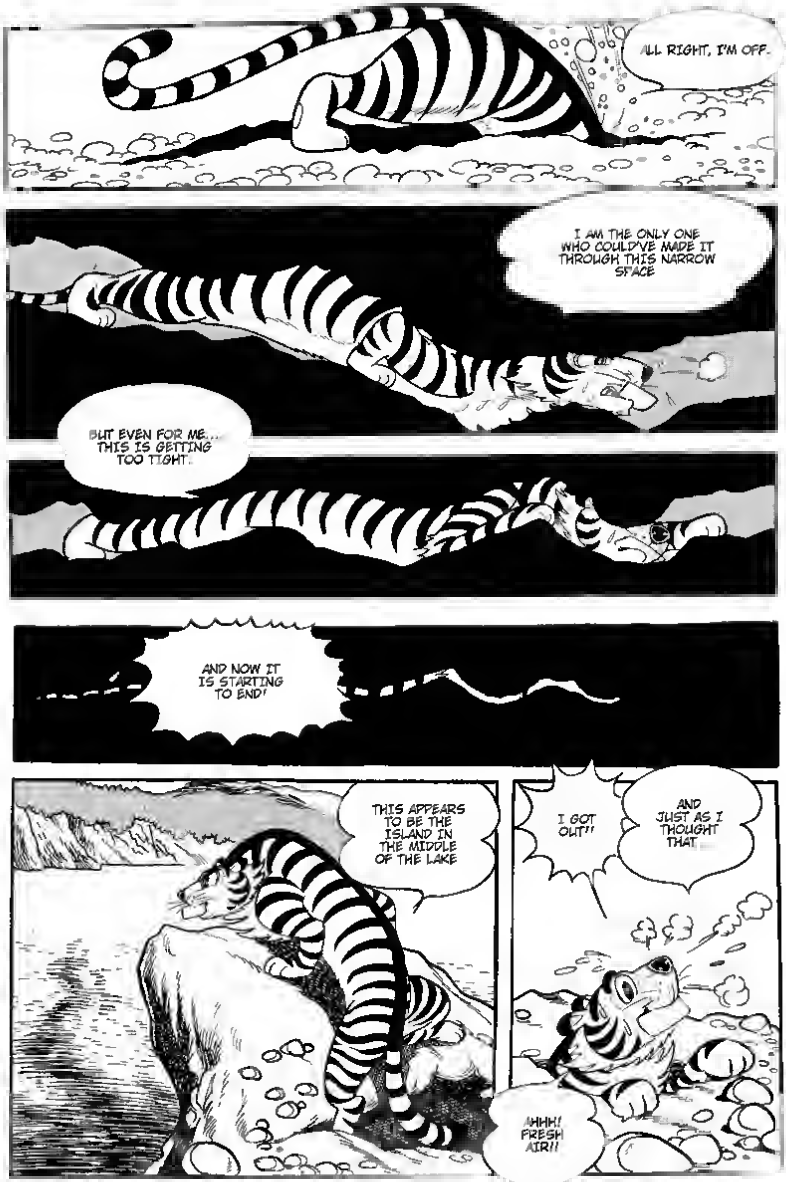
EEEEK!! THAT'S SO CREEPY!
CRAP!
BUT IT SEEMS A BIT ODD FOR IT TO JUST END HERE LIKE THIS
HMM. IT LOOKS LIKE THE TUNNEL ENDS HERE
IT LOOKS LIKE MANY OF THE ANCIENT AINU PEOPLE WERE PLACED HERE OR DIED HERE IN THEIR LEADER'S TOMB AND HAVEN'T DECAYED IN THE NORMAL MANNER
A MUMMY IS A DECEASED HUMAN WHOSE SKIN AND ORGANS HAVE BEEN PRESERVED BY EITHER INTENTIONAL MEANS OR EXPOSURE TO CERTAIN CONDITION SUCH AS LACK OF AIR, EXTREME COLD, EXTREME HEAT, OR LOW HUMIDITY.
PULLING THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
ガコン
YANK
AHA!
HMPH! THERE IS DEFINITELY A HIDDEN DOOR HIDDEN HERE SOMEWHERE
ゴゴゴ
CLUNK
CREAK
ゴゴゴ
CLUNK

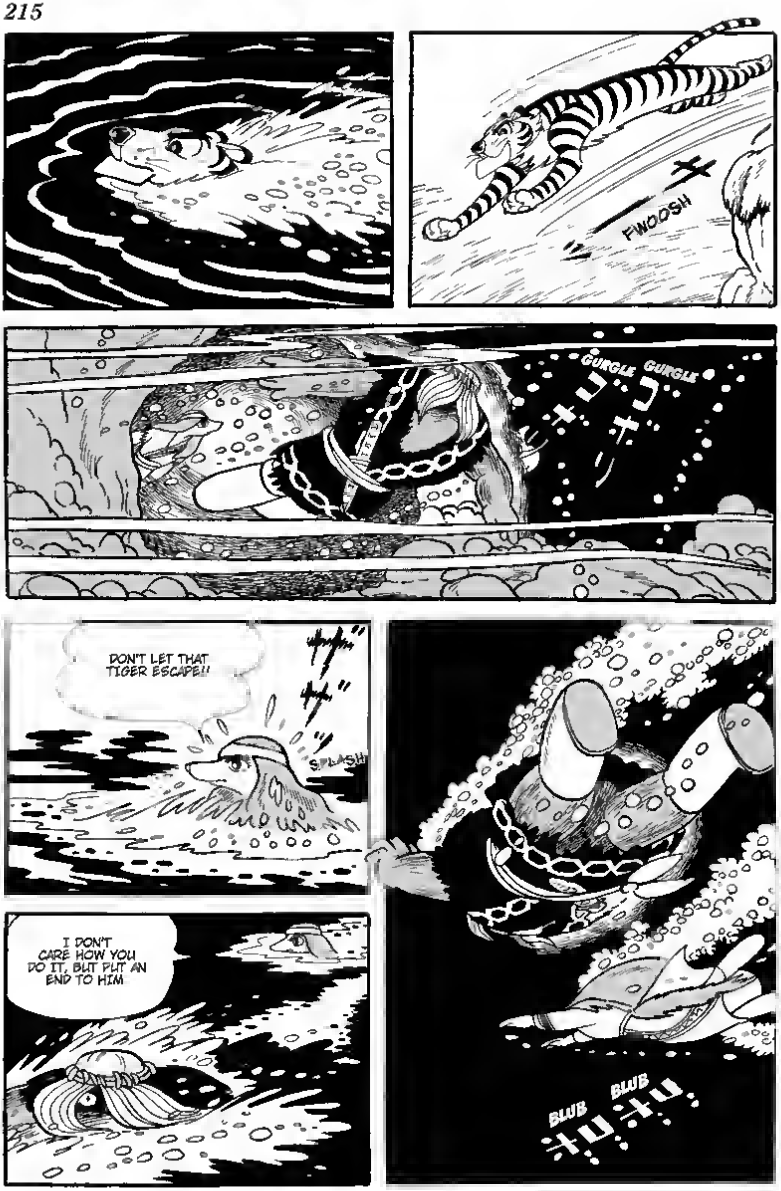

THIS MUST MEAN I'M GETTING CLOSER TO THE TREASURE!
THERE APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER TRAP HERE
HMM...
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
AHA!! THEY REALLY DO HAVE SOME IMPRESSIVE MACHINES
THIS ONE LOOKS PRETTY NASTY
DESIGNED TO FOIL DESECRATERS.
CLUNK


IF I HAD BEEN THE ONE TO STEP THERE, I'D BE MUSH
SMASH
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY AROUND IT. I HAVE TO ADMIT THIS IS A PRETTY EFFECTIVE DEVICE
LET'S TRY GOING OVER IT WHEN IT COMES DOWN...
SMAAASH
CRUNCH
TO GET TO THE TREASURE I HAVE TO GO THROUGH HERE SOMEHOW

CRAP!! MY HAND IS CALIGHT!!
IT'S WORKING!
IT'S PROBABLY JUST YOUR IMAGINATION.
KOTAN, I THINK I SMELL FRESH AIR
SOMEBODY! ANYBODY! HELP ME!! GET ME DOWN FROM HERE!!
RRUMBLE
COULD AIR BE COMING IN FROM SOMEWHERE?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TRAPPED HERE, THE AIR HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY FRESH.
IT LOOKS LIKE NATURE HAS SLOWLY MADE ITS WAY INTO THIS MANMADE PLACE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, DAN! THERE'S A CRACK HERE!
OVER HERE. GRRRR THE AIR IS COMING UP FROM OVER HERE.

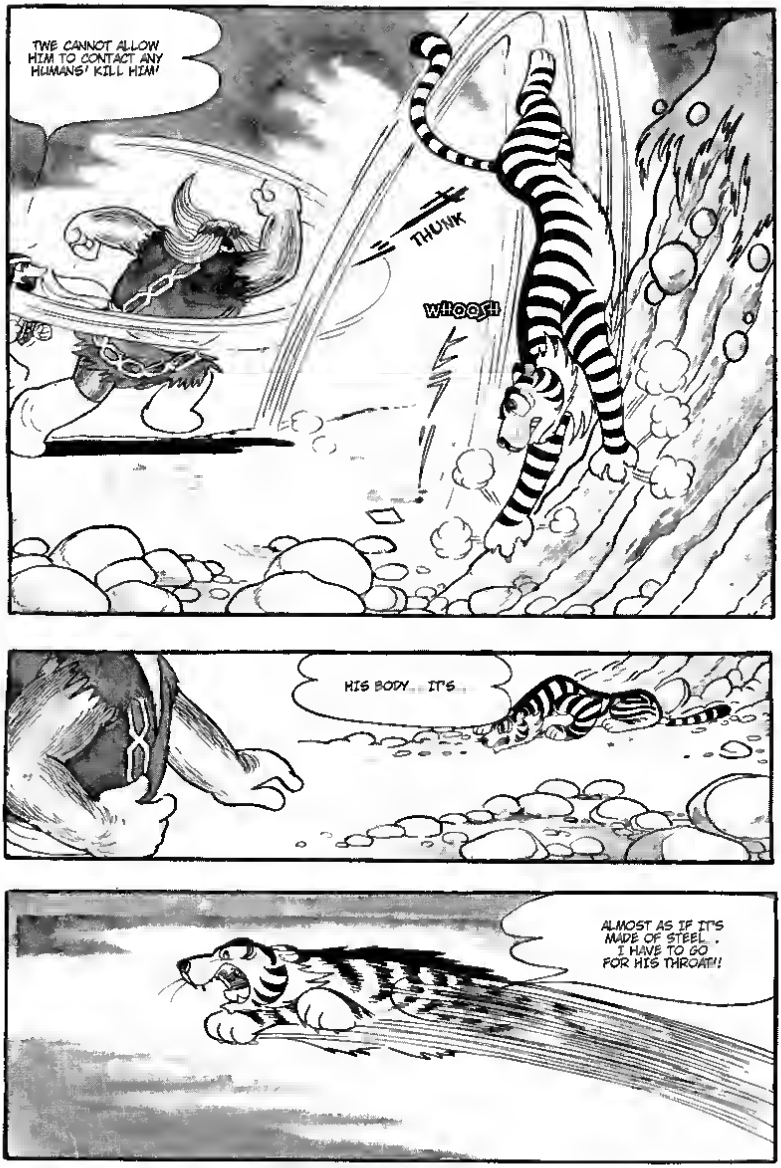
MEOW GRRR MEOW GRRRRR MEOW
WHAT?
THIS DEFINITELY LEADS TO THE OUTSIDE...
I CAN SMELL PINE TREES
WHICH MEANS YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET OUTSIDE AND TELL SOMEBODY ABOUT US!!
THAT'S RIGHT! CATS AND TIGERS CAN FIT THROUGH REALLY NARROW SPACES!
IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU BUT MEOW MEOW GRRRR MEOW
A LETTER? HERE, LET ME WRITE IT
KOUSETSU-KUN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO WRITE ON?
I COULD MEOW GRRRR MEOW
GRRRR MEOW IF YOU WRITE A LETTER...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. STAY FOCUSED ON YOURSELF AS LONG AS YOU STAY SAFE, I WILL FIND YOU AGAIN
OH DAN, PLEASE BE CAREFUL. I'M GETTING THIS SCARY FEELING THAT I WON'T SEE YOU AGAIN
PLEASE HELP US. WE ARE TRAPPED IN A CAVE IN THE FOREST TO THE WEST OF THE LAKE. IF YOU GO
KOTAN STAY SAFE UNTIL HELP COMES
YOU STAY SAFE TOO


ALL RIGHT, I'M OFF.
I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD'VE MADE IT THROUGH THIS NARROW SPACE
BUT EVEN FOR ME... THIS IS GETTING TOO TIGHT.
AND NOW IT IS STARTING TO END!
THIS APPEARS TO BE THE ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE
I GOT OUT!!
AND JUST AS I THOUGHT THAT...
WHH! FRESH AIR!!

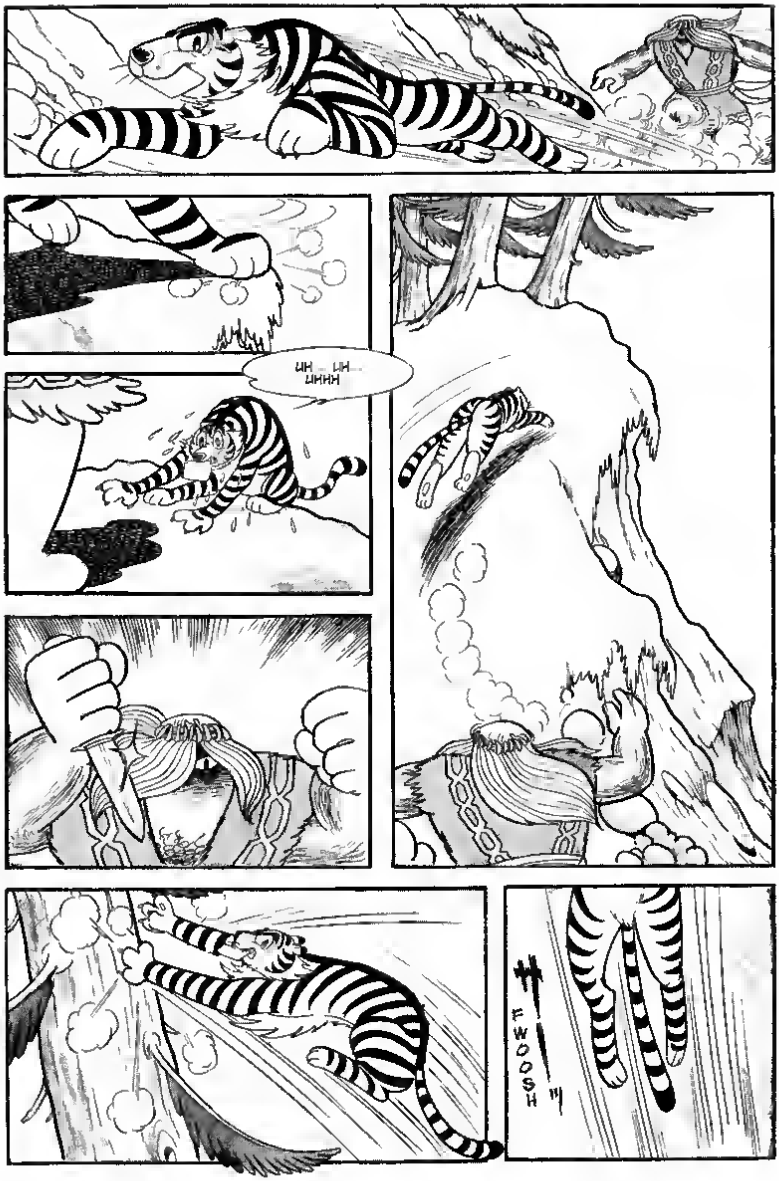

FWOOSH
GURGLE GURGLE
DON'T LET THAT TIGER ESCAPE!!
SPLASH
I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT, BUT PUT AN END TO HIM
BLUB BLUB

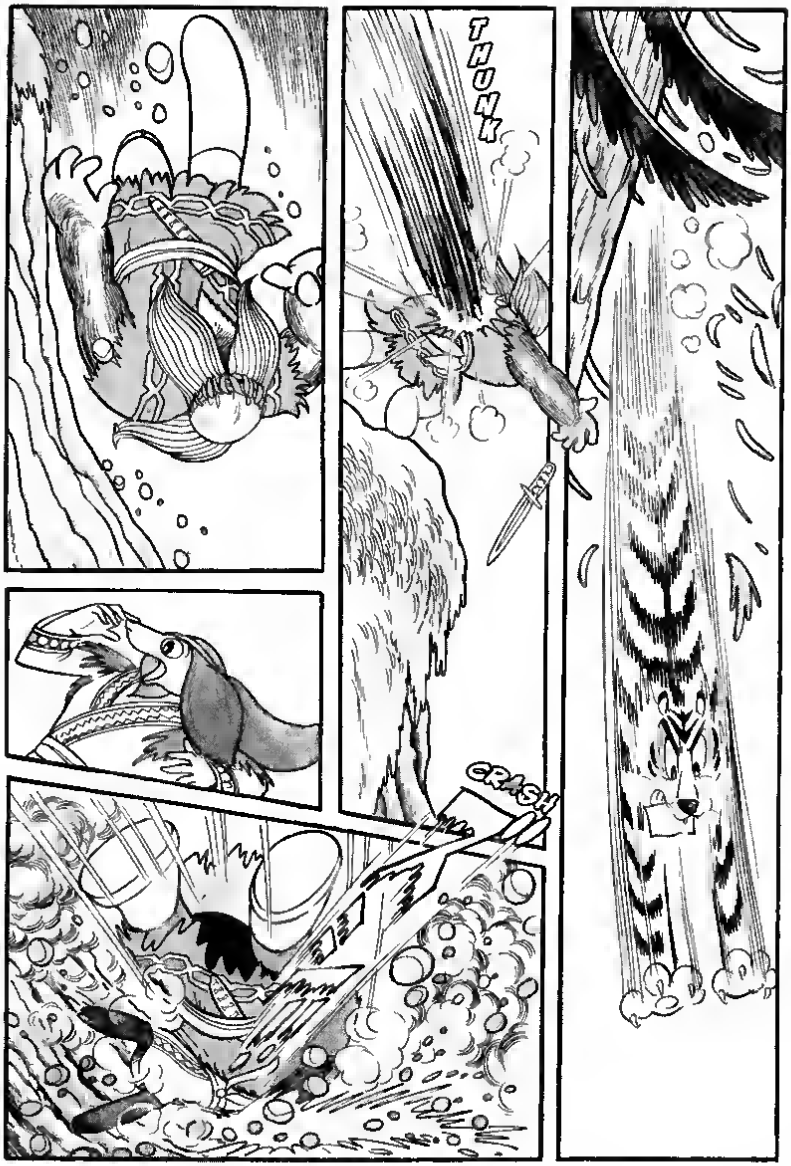
GIRIRIRI
GIRARARA!!

GET HIM!!
GRRRAH!!
GRRRRRR
DID YOU THINK THAT I'D GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT?!
KILL HIM NOW!!!


WE CANNOT ALLOW HIM TO CONTACT ANY HUMANS! KILL HIM!
THUNK
WHOOSH
HIS BODY... IT'S...
ALMOST AS IF IT'S MADE OF STEEL. I HAVE TO GO FOR HIS THROAT!!

THUNK
WHACK
SPLASH
ROAR
I CANNOT LET YOU TAKE THAT

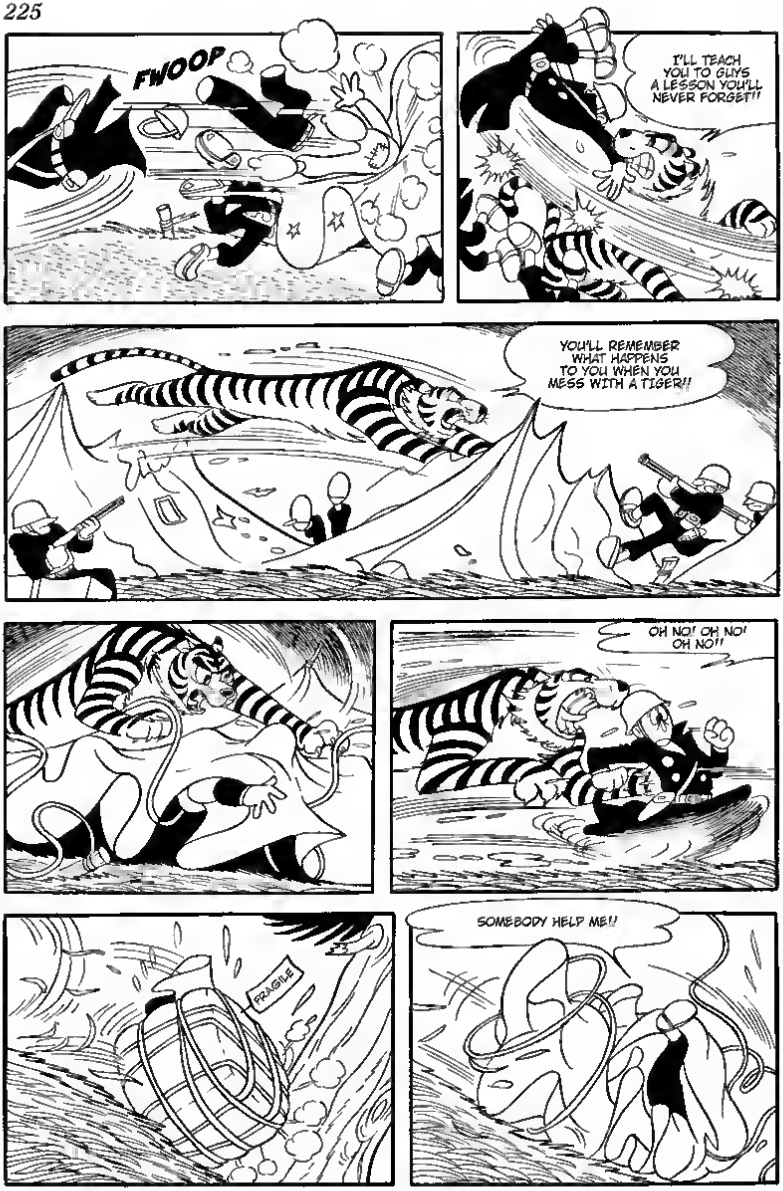

UH... UH...
UHHH
FWOOSH

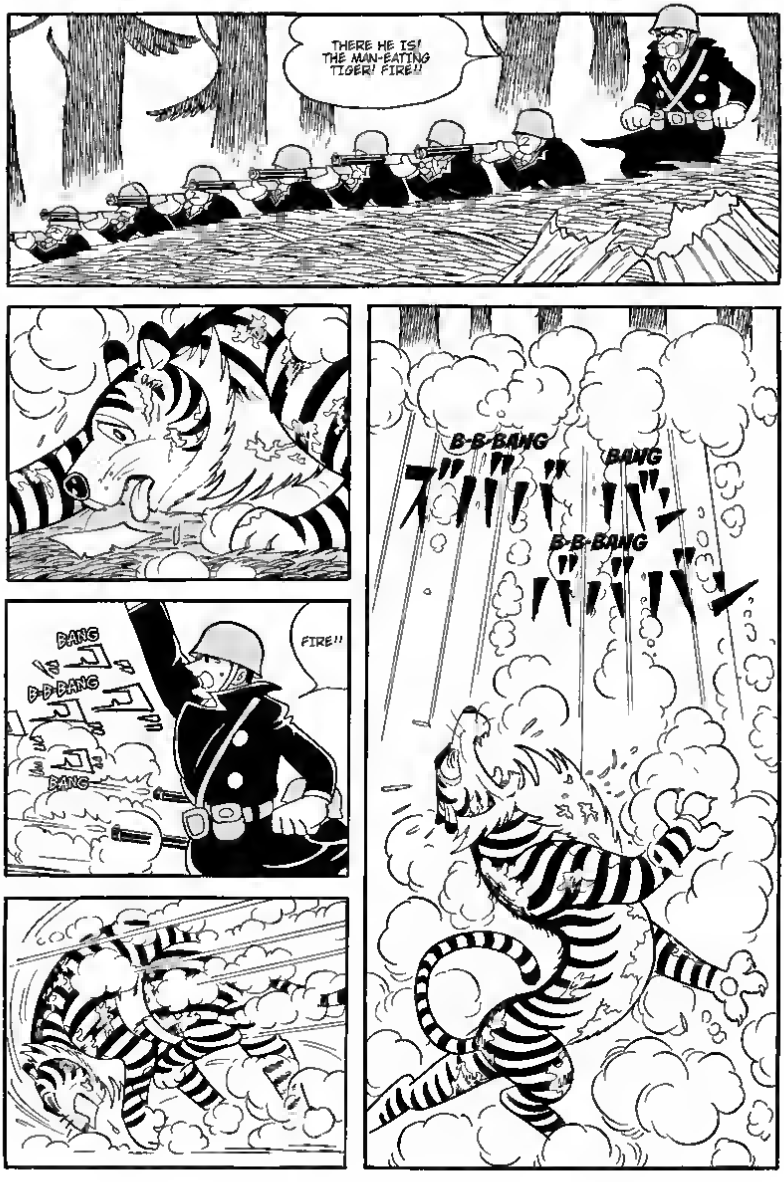

THUNK
CRASH

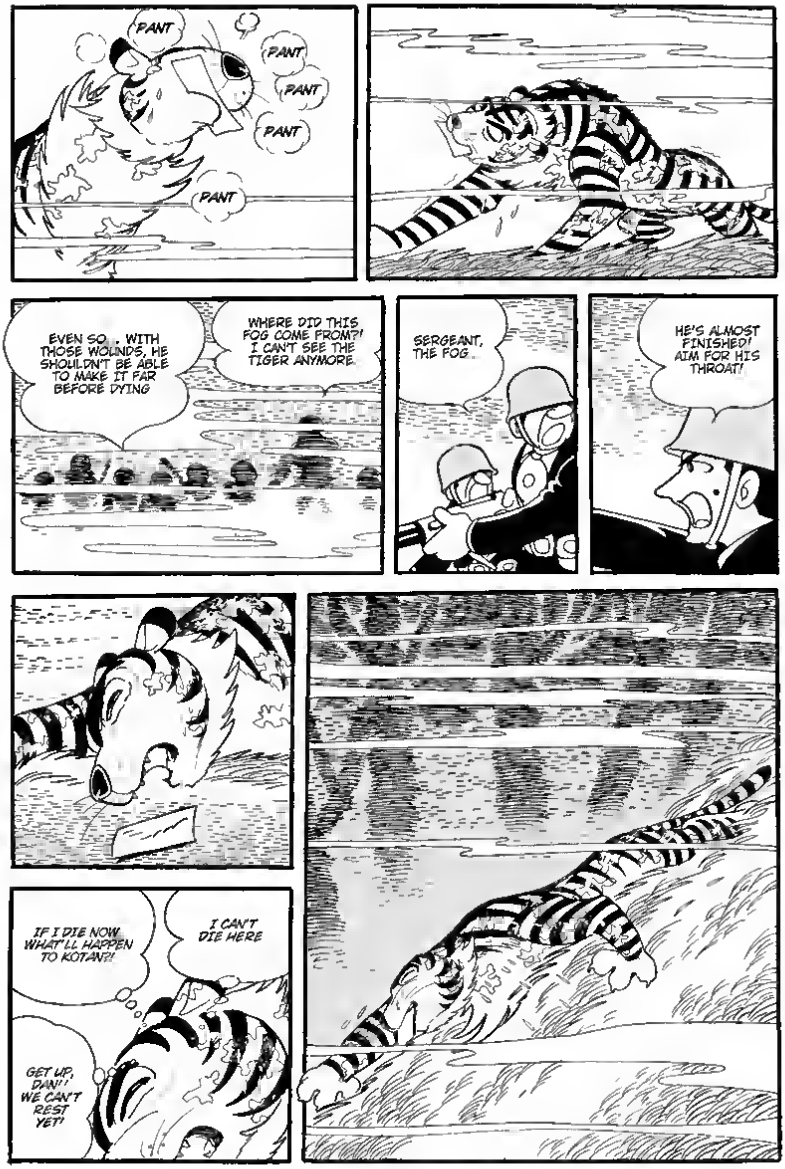
BOOM
BANG
BANG
?
?

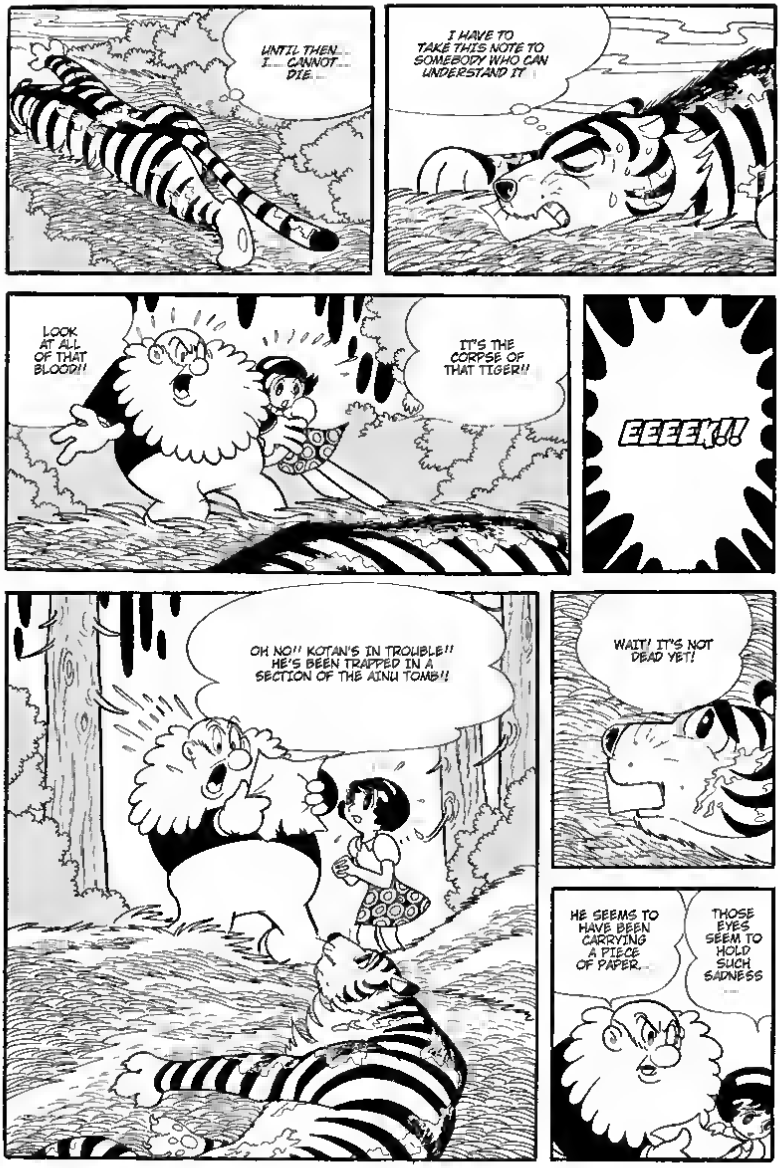
THANKS TO THAT FIGHT, I'VE LOST A LOT OF TIME
THE MAN-EATING TIGER IS HEADING THIS WAY!! EVERYONE GET READY!!
EEK! IT'S THE TIGER!!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
PLEASE SOMEBODY READ THIS LETTER
FIRE!!

GRRRRRRR!
PEW
THWICK
THWICK
PEW
THWICK
B-B-B-BANG
BANG
ROOOAR
I'M TRYING TO SAVE MY FRIEND'S LIFE... AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO SHOOT ME!!


FWOOP
I'LL TEACH YOU TO GUYS A LESSON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!!
YOU'LL REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU WHEN YOU MESS WITH A TIGER!!
OH NO! OH NO! OH NO!!
FRAGILE
SOMEBODY HELP ME!!

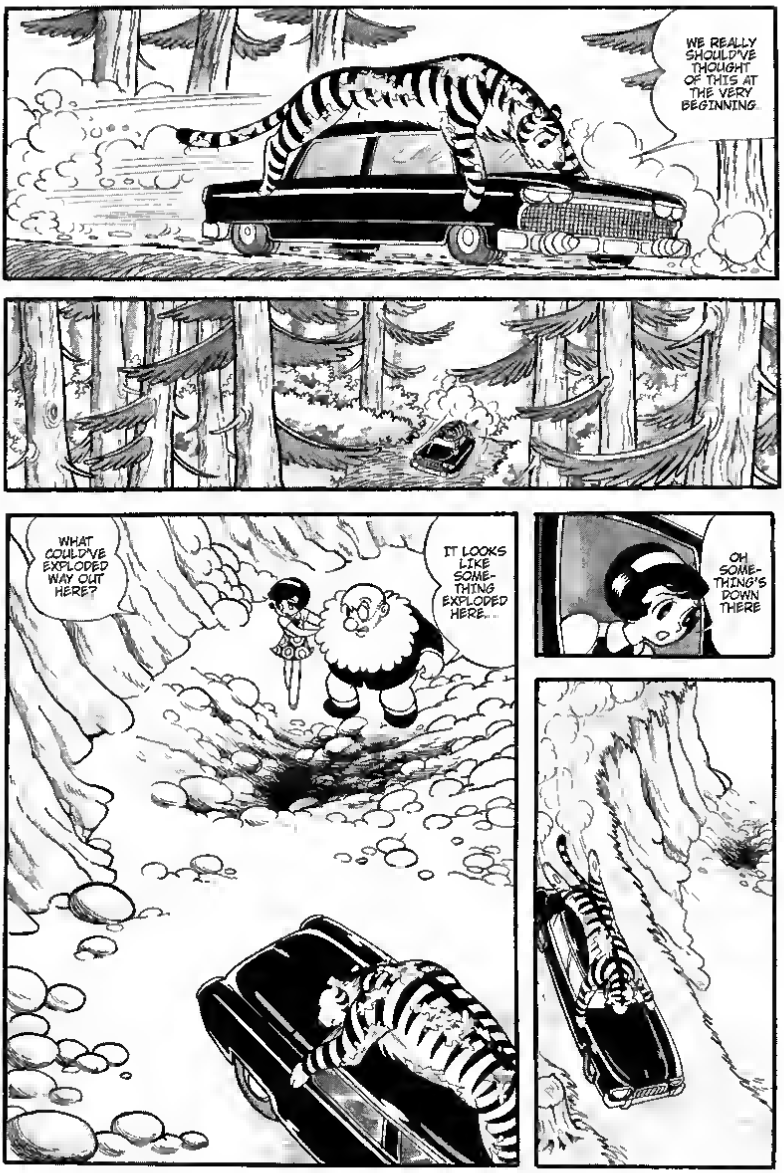

THERE HE IS! THE MAN-EATING TIGER! FIRE!!
B-B-BANG
BANG
B-B-BANG
BANG
B-B-BANG
BANG
FIRE!!

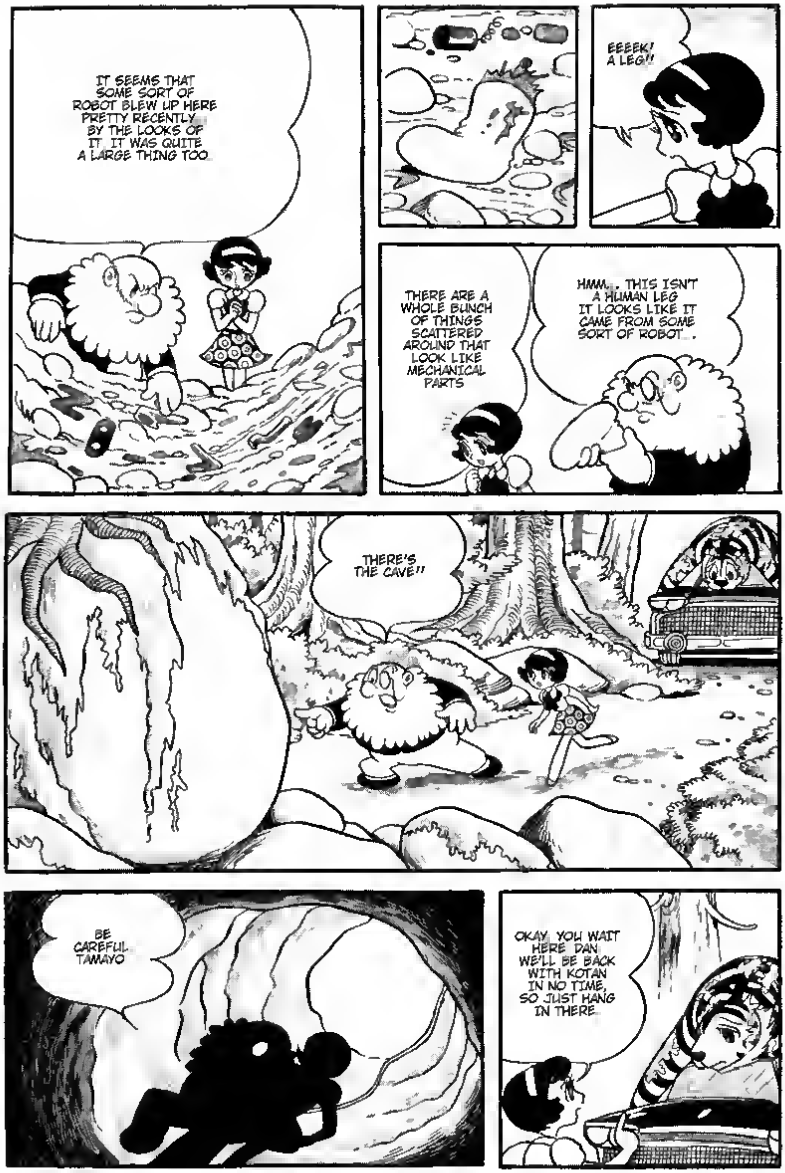

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
EVEN SO... WITH THOSE WOUNDS, HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT FAR BEFORE DYING
WHERE DID THIS FOG COME FROM?! I CAN'T SEE THE TIGER ANYMORE
SERGEANT, THE FOG...
HE'S ALMOST FINISHED! AIM FOR HIS THROAT!
IF I DIE NOW, WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO KOTAN?!
I CAN'T DIE HERE
GET UP, DAN!! WE CAN'T REST YET!

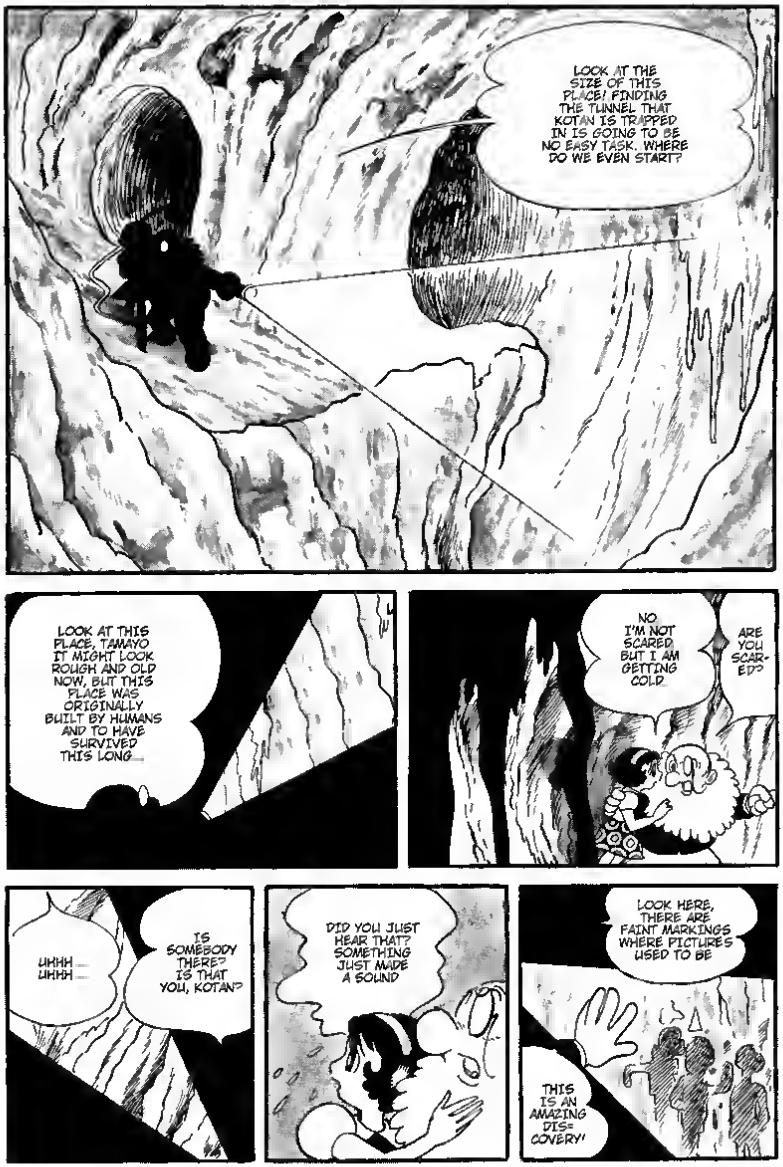

UNTIL THEN... I... CANNOT... DIE...
I HAVE TO TAKE THIS NOTE TO SOMEBODY WHO CAN UNDERSTAND IT
LOOK AT ALL OF THAT BLOOD!!
IT'S THE CORPSE OF THAT TIGER!!
EEEEK!!
OH NO!! KOTAN'S IN TROUBLE!! HE'S BEEN TRAPPED IN A SECTION OF THE AINU TOMB!!
WAIT! IT'S NOT DEAD YET!
HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CARRYING A PIECE OF PAPER...
THOSE EYES SEEM TO HOLD SUCH SADNESS

THIS IS TERRIBLE!! IT SAYS THAT HE'S TRAPPED WITH A FELLOW BY THE NAME OF KOUSETSUKOKU IN A SIDE TUNNEL FAIRLY DEEP INTO THE AINU TOMB APPARENTLY, THE ENTRANCE IS A PILE OF STONES NEAR THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE LAKE
ALL RIGHT! C'MON TAMAYO!! WE HAVE TO GO HELP KOTAN RIGHT AWAY!
I WONDER WHO IT WAS THAT SHOT YOU...
I WAS MISTAKEN ABOUT YOU EARLIER, DAN. YOU'RE A WONDERFUL TIGER.
THE TIGER DELIVERED THE LETTER FOR KOTAN...
AND HOW EXACTLY DO YOU PROPOSE WE TAKE HIM?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AFRAID OF THE TIGER? NOW YOU WANT TO BRING HIM WITH US?
WHAAAT?!
WE HAVE TO TAKE DAN WITH US, TOO

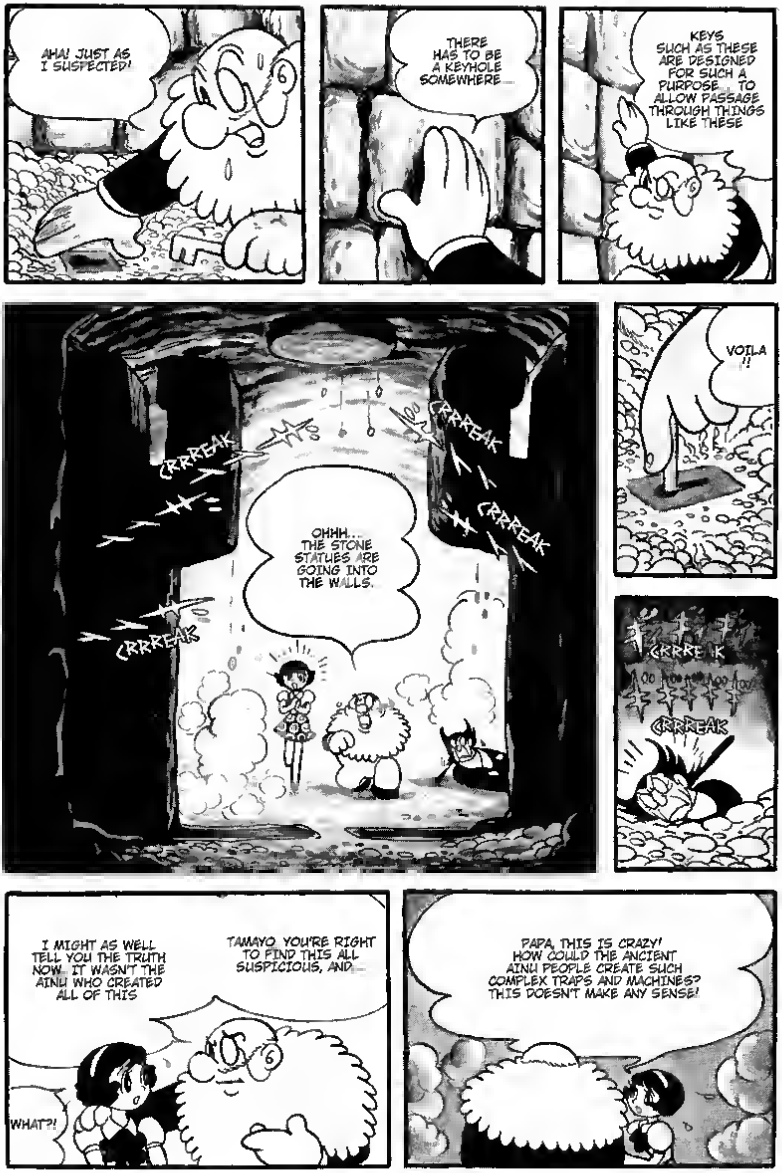
WHAT YOU ASK IS INSANE!!
CAN'T WE JUST TAKE HIM IN THE CAR?
I'M SURE THAT HE WANTS TO SEE KOTAN ONE LAST TIME
DO YOU JUST INTEND TO JUST LEAVE HIM HERE TO DIE?!
FINE, IF THERE'S NO OTHER WAY...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
OKAY, YOU GO ON AHEAD THEN. I WILL STAY HERE AND TEND TO DAN
YOU THINK WE CAN FIT AN ENTIRE TIGER INTO OUR CAR?!
IF IT WAS JUST A TIGER PELT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT BUT HE HAS A LOT OF MUSCLE AND BONE, TOO...
CAN YOU MAKE YOURSELF A LITTLE MORE USEFUL THAN THAT?
I'VE GOT A HOLD OF HIS TAIL
UGH! WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME A HAND HERE?
NOW HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DRIVE THIS THING?!
FINALLY!
YOU GOT HIM IN!


WE REALLY SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF THIS AT THE VERY BEGINNING
WHAT COULD'VE EXPLODED WAY OUT HERE?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME-THING EXPLODED HERE...
OH SOME-THING'S DOWN THERE


IT SEEMS THAT SOME SORT OF ROBOT BLEW UP HERE PRETTY RECENTLY BY THE LOOKS OF IT IT WAS QUITE A LARGE THING TOO
EEEEK! A LEG!!
THERE ARE A WHOLE BUNCH OF THINGS SCATTERED AROUND THAT LOOK LIKE MECHANICAL PARTS
HMM... THIS ISN'T A HUMAN LEG IT LOOKS LIKE IT CAME FROM SOME SORT OF ROBOT...
THERE'S THE CAVE!!
BE CAREFUL TAMAYO
OKAY, YOU WAIT HERE DAN WE'LL BE BACK WITH KOTAN IN NO TIME, SO JUST HANG IN THERE

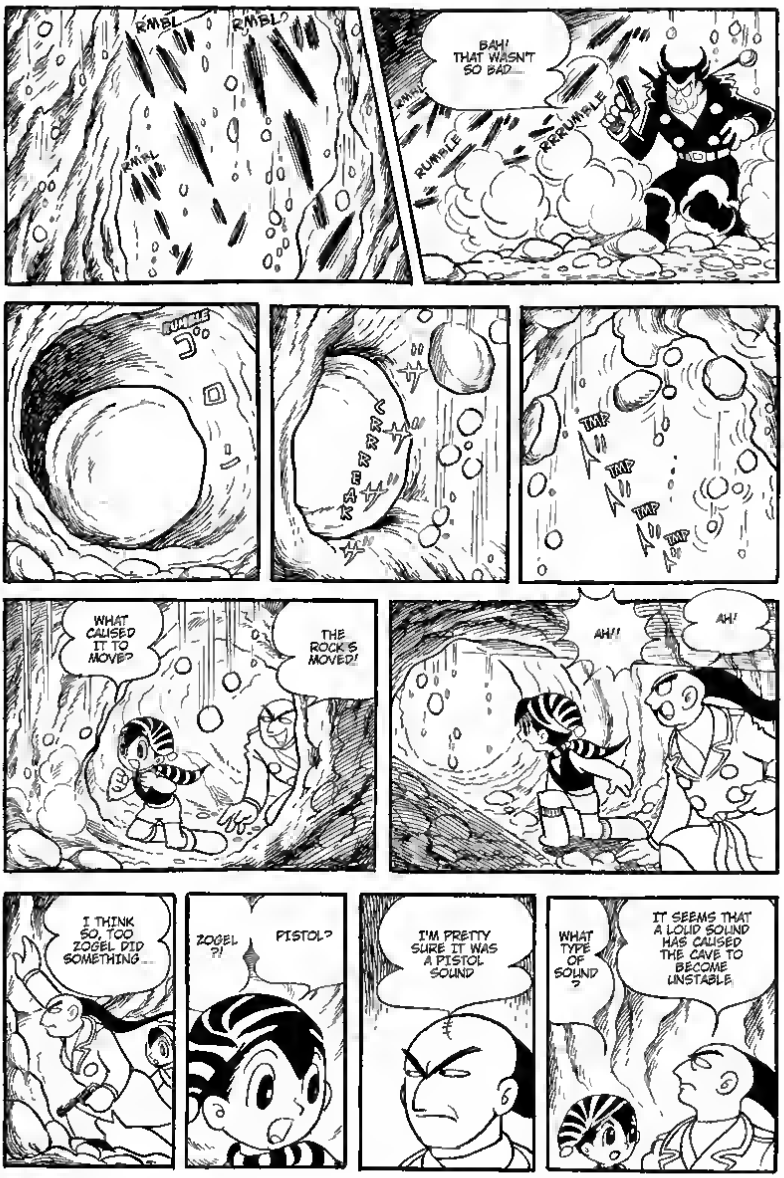

LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS PLACE! FINDING THE TUNNEL THAT KOTAN IS TRAPPED IN IS GOING TO BE NO EASY TASK. WHERE DO WE EVEN START?
LOOK AT THIS PLACE, TAMAYO. IT MIGHT LOOK ROUGH AND OLD NOW, BUT THIS PLACE WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT BY HUMANS AND TO HAVE SURVIVED THIS LONG...
NO. I'M NOT SCARED BUT I AM GETTING COLD.
ARE YOU SCARED?
UHHH... UHHH...
IS SOMEBODY THERE? IS THAT YOU, KOTAN?
DID YOU JUST HEAR THAT? SOMETHING JUST MADE A SOUND
LOOK HERE, THERE ARE FAINT MARKINGS WHERE PICTURES USED TO BE
THIS IS AN AMAZING DIS-COVERY!

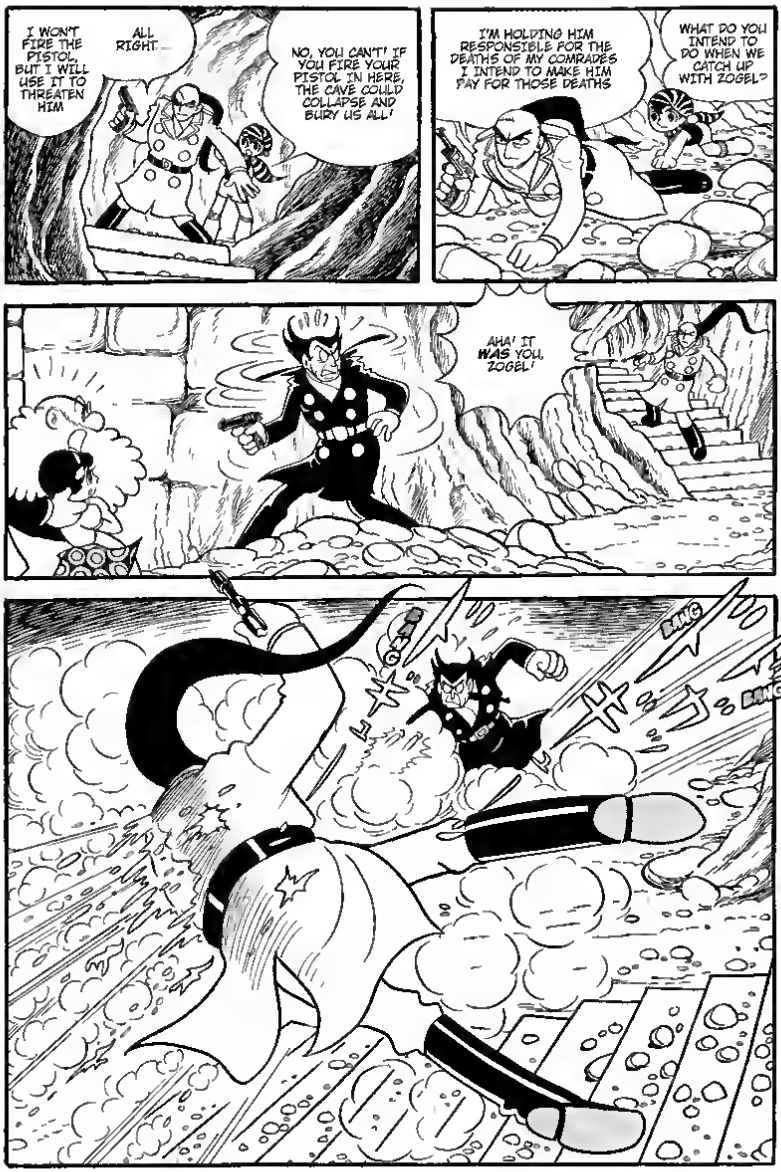
UGH... AND YOU MUST BE PROFESSOR HANAMARU...
WHY, IF IT ISN'T PROFESSOR ZOGEL!
UHHH... UHHH...
SOME-ONE'S THERE...
I TRIED GOING OVER THIS TRAP, BUT MY HANDS GOT CAUGHT AND IT LIFTED ME UP...
NOT YET. I CAME THIS FAR, BUT THEN COULDN'T GET PAST THIS TRAP AND MET THIS FATE. LOOK AT MY HANDS. I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT THEY'RE BROKEN...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? HOW DID YOU GET TO BE HERE? YOU OBVIOUSLY FOUND THIS PLACE BEFORE ME. DID YOU FIND THE TREASURE?
I WOULDN'T GO TOO CLOSE IF I WAS YOU. IT'S VERY SENSITIVE.
DID YOU TRY LOOKING FOR A KEY HOLE? I BET YOU HAVE TO USE THE KEY...
I LOOKED AROUND, BUT DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
A TRAP SUCH AS THIS HAS NO WAY OF RECOGNIZING FRIEND OR FOE. THERE MUST BE ANOTHER PART TO IT. A WAY TO TURN IT OFF OR SOMETHING...


AHA! JUST AS I SUSPECTED!
THERE HAS TO BE A KEYHOLE SOMEWHERE...
KEYS SUCH AS THESE ARE DESIGNED FOR SUCH A PURPOSE... TO ALLOW PASSAGE THROUGH THINGS LIKE THESE
CRRREAK
CRRREAK
CRRREAK
CRRREAK
OHHH... THE STONE STATUES ARE GOING INTO THE WALLS.
VOILA !!
GRRRE..K
CRRREAK
I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU THE TRUTH NOW. IT WASN'T THE AINU WHO CREATED ALL OF THIS
TAMAYO, YOU'RE RIGHT TO FIND THIS ALL SUSPICIOUS, AND...
WHAT?!
PAPA, THIS IS CRAZY! HOW COULD THE ANCIENT AINU PEOPLE CREATE SUCH COMPLEX TRAPS AND MACHINES? THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

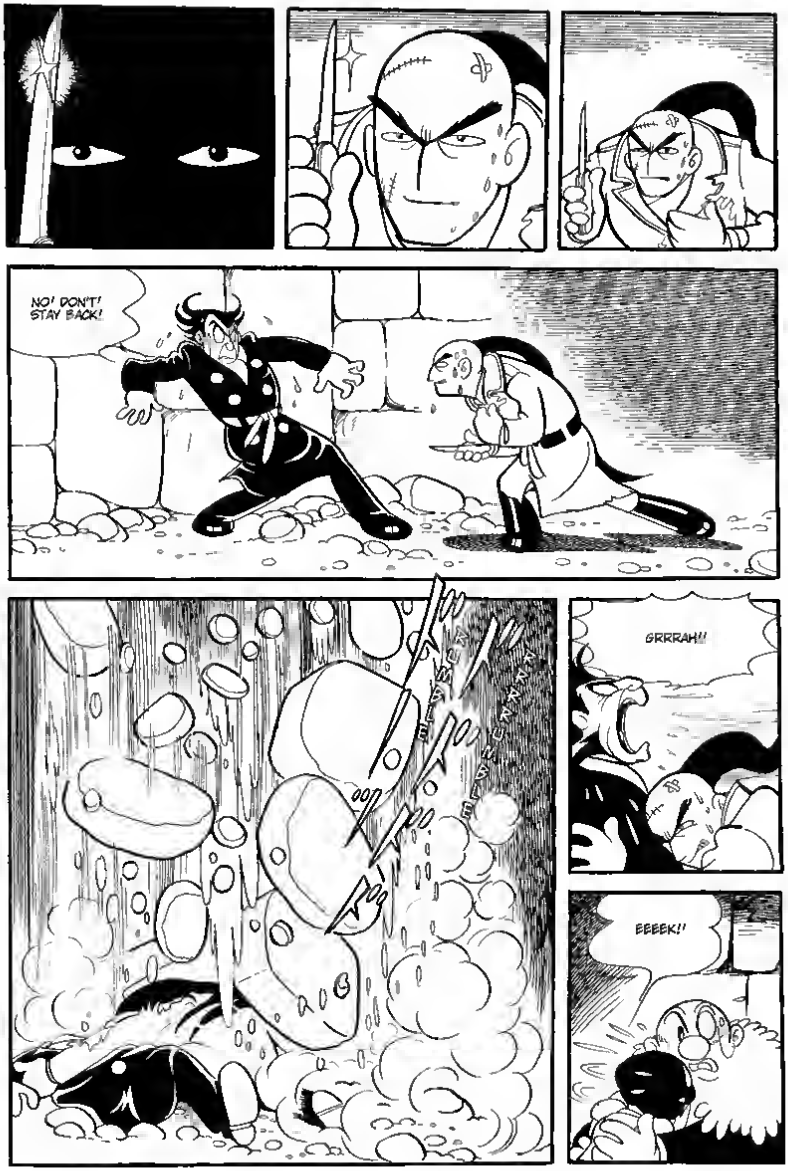
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PAPA. WHO LIVED HERE *BEFORE* THE AINU?
THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE BEFORE THE AINU?
THE PEOPLE WHO CREATED THIS ACTUALLY LIVED HERE BEFORE THE AINU DID, AND TAUGHT MUCH OF THIS TO THE AINU PEOPLE!
ZOGEL!! I THOUGHT YOUR HANDS WERE BROKEN! YOU STINKING LIAR!!
THE SECRET WE DISCOVERED HIDDEN IN THOSE AINU YUKAR
I WANT THAT SECRET TO STAY JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME FOR NOW
OOH! I WOULDN'T SAY ANYMORE IF I WAS YOU, PROFESSOR HANAMARU
SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, BUT I'M GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO GETS THEIR HANDS ON THE TREASURE
YOU'RE A HORRIBLE PERSON, ZOGEL!!
OF COURSE WHEN I SAW THAT IT WAS YOU TWO I KNEW I COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU AND LOOK AT THIS! YOU'VE OPENED A DOOR FOR ME
HAHAHA! I HEARD SOMEBODY COMING AND DECIDED IT WAS SAFEST TO PRETEND TO BE INJURED
I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE TO FIND THE TREASURE AND UNLOCK ITS SECRETS. I WILL NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO GET IN MY WAY

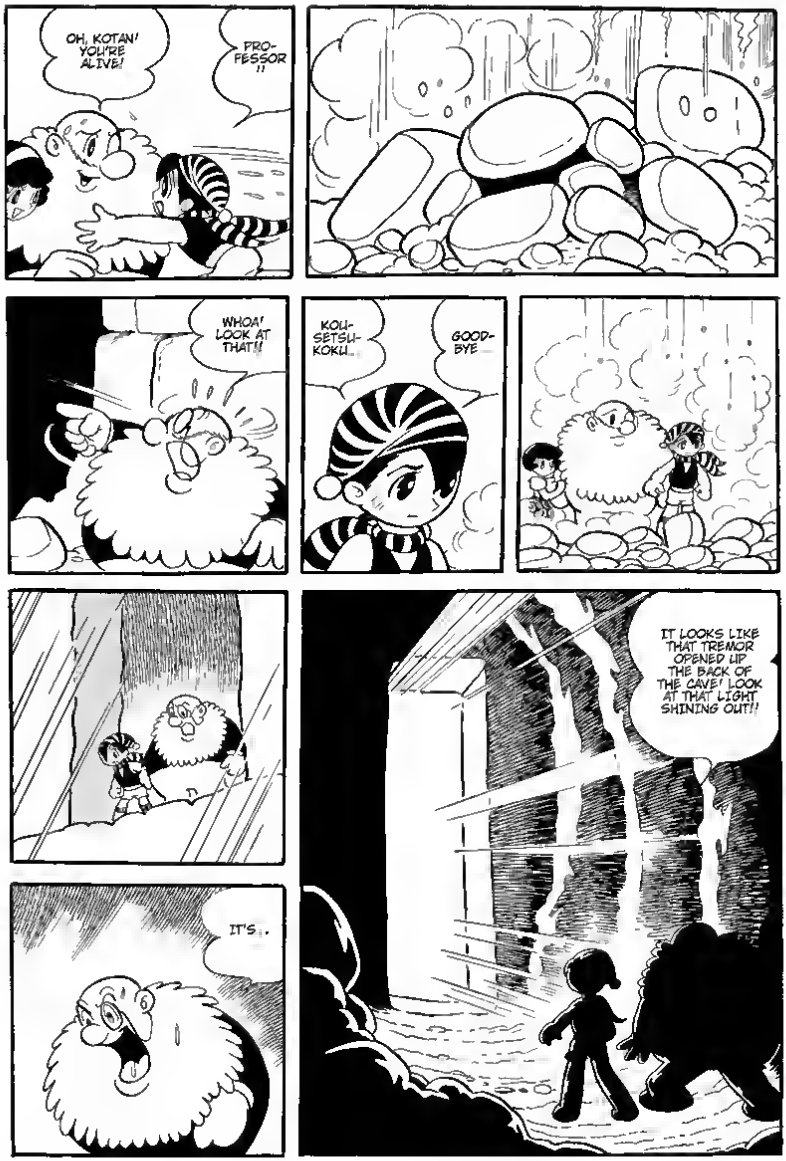
IF YOU SHOOT, THE CEILING IS LIKELY TO CAVE IN!
EVERYONE WILL BOW BEFORE ME!! GOODBYE, PROFESSOR HANAMARU
ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON THE TREASURE...
WAIT! DON'T SHOOT!
LOOK, YOU CAN SEE THAT THERE'S WATER SEEPING THROUGH THE ROCKS. A GUNSHOT WILL EMIT HUGE VIBRATIONS AND CAUSE A CAVE IN!
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RUMBLE
BAH! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! HERE, LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH!
BANG

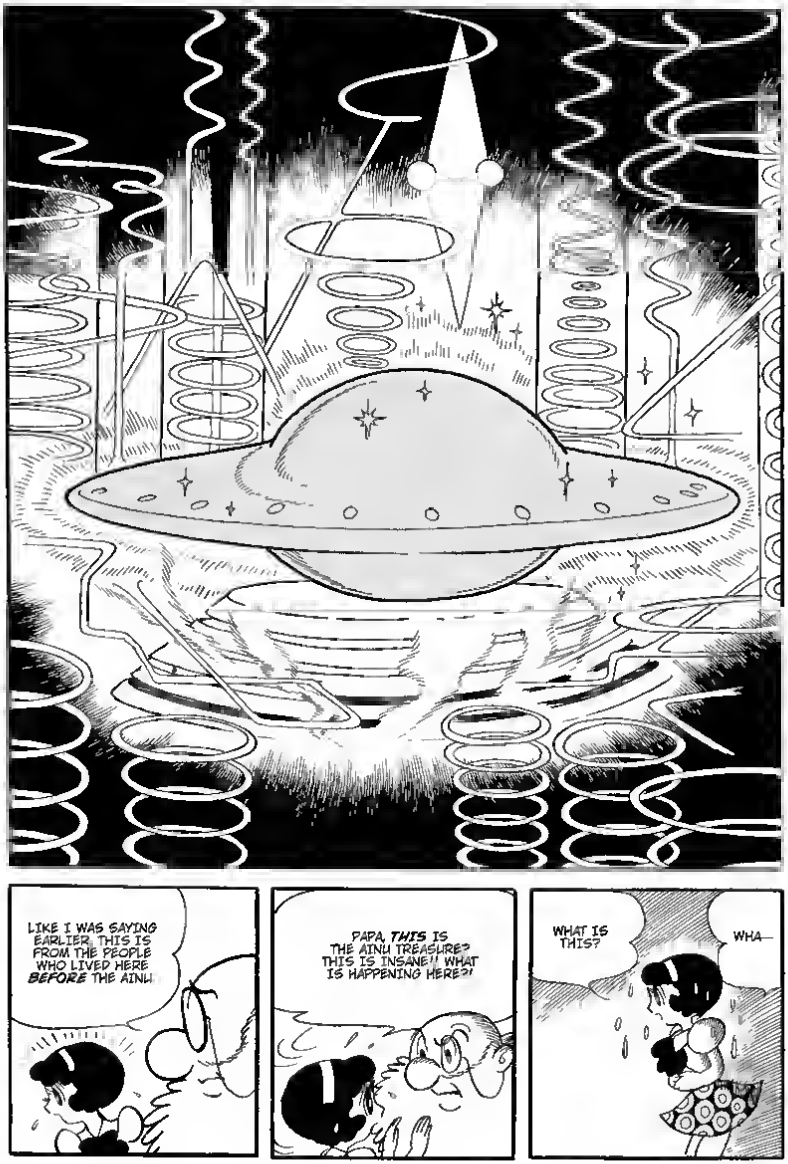

RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
BAH! THAT WASN'T SO BAD...
RUMBLE
RRRUMBLE
RUMBLE
KRRRRR
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
WHAT CAUSED IT TO MOVE?
THE ROCK'S MOVED!
AH!!
AH!
I THINK SO, TOO ZOGEL DID SOMETHING...
ZOGEL ?!
PISTOL?
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS A PISTOL SOUND
WHAT TYPE OF SOUND ?
IT SEEMS THAT A LOUD SOUND HAS CAUSED THE CAVE TO BECOME UNSTABLE

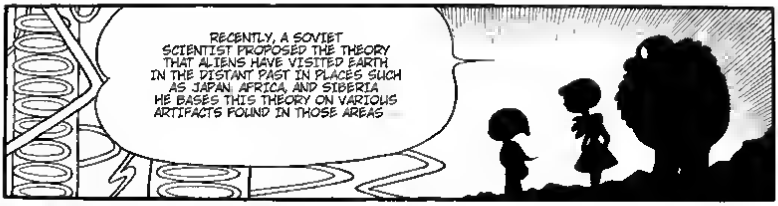

I WON'T FIRE THE PISTOL, BUT I WILL USE IT TO THREATEN HIM
ALL RIGHT...
NO, YOU CAN'T! IF YOU FIRE YOUR PISTOL IN HERE, THE CAVE COULD COLLAPSE AND BURY US ALL!
I'M HOLDING HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MY COMRADES I INTEND TO MAKE HIM PAY FOR THOSE DEATHS
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WHEN WE CATCH UP WITH ZOGEL?
AHA! IT WAS YOU, ZOGEL!
BANG
BANG

HAHAHAHA! I WON'T LET ANYONE OTHER THAN ME NEAR THAT TREASURE! IT'S MINE, I TELL YOU! MINE!
KOUSETSU-KOKU!! YOU'VE BEEN SHOT!!
UH-OH...
CLICK CLICK
EVEN LIKE THIS... I AM MORE THAN ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
LEAVE HIM TO ME! HE'S MINE!
STOP, KOTAN!
WHY YOU—


NO! DON'T! STAY BACK!
GRRRAH!!
BBBBK!!


OH, KOTAN! YOU'RE ALIVE!
PRO-FESSOR !!
WHOA! LOOK AT THAT!!
KOU-SETSU-KOKU...
GOOD-BYE
IT'S..
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT TREMOR OPENED UP THE BACK OF THE CAVE! LOOK AT THAT LIGHT SHINING OUT!!

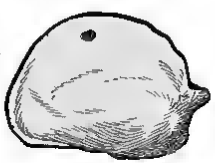

LIKE I WAS SAYING EARLIER, THIS IS FROM THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE *BEFORE* THE AINU.
PAPA, *THIS* IS THE AINU TREASURE? THIS IS INSANE!! WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?!
WHAT IS THIS?
WHA—

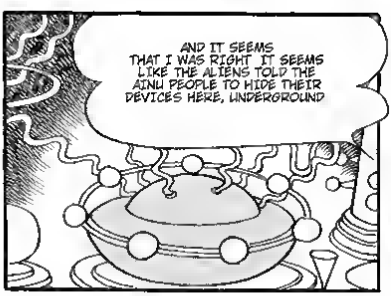

RECENTLY, A SOVIET SCIENTIST PROPOSED THE THEORY THAT ALIENS HAVE VISITED EARTH IN THE DISTANT PAST IN PLACES SUCH AS JAPAN, AFRICA, AND SIBERIA HE BASES THIS THEORY ON VARIOUS ARTIFACTS FOUND IN THOSE AREAS

THAT SCIENTIST SAYS THE ALIENS CAME TO EARTH, LIVED IN A VARIETY OF PLACES, AND HELPED THE PRIMITIVE HUMANS WHO LIVED THERE TO BECOME MORE ADVANCED.

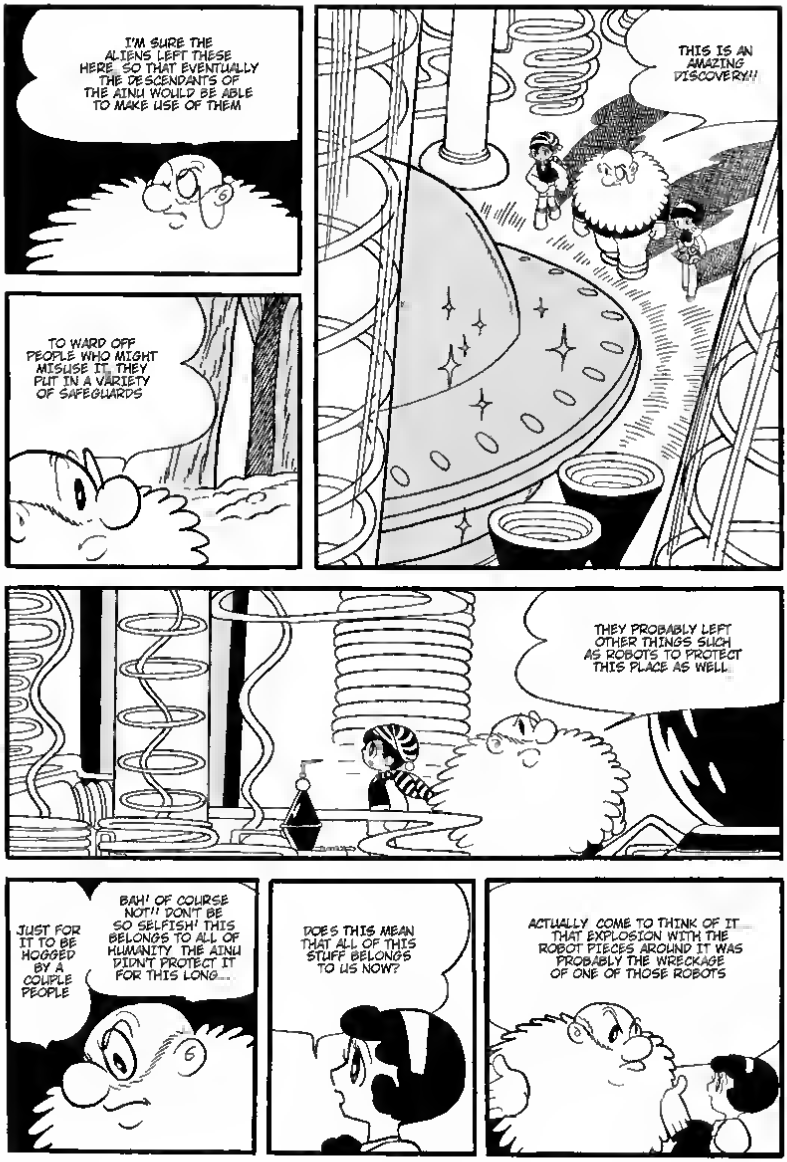
THERE'S A VARIETY OF PROOF. ON THE RIGHT, WE HAVE AN ANCIENT DOLL MADE IN JAPAN. ABOVE, WE HAVE A PICTURE FOUND ON A CAVE WALL IN AFRICA. BOTH APPEAR DISTINCTLY ALIEN

THERE → APPEARS TO BE A BULLET HOLE IN AN ANCIENT HUMAN SKULL.

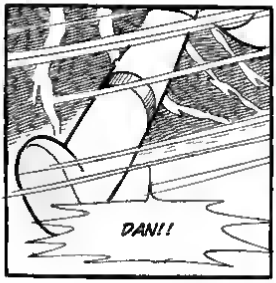


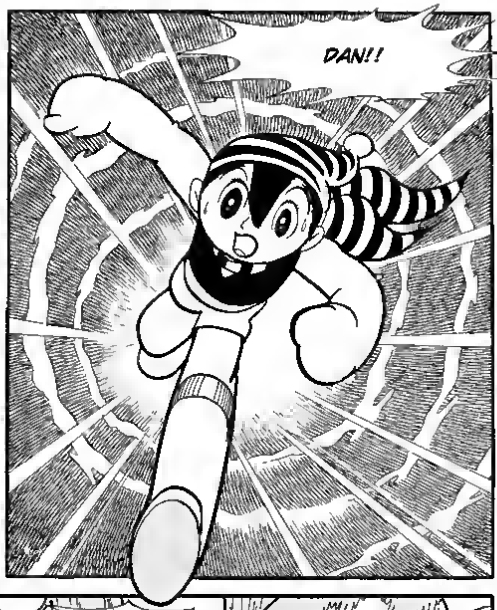


COMBINING THAT RESEARCH WITH MY OWN FROM THE YUKARS, I THEORIZED THAT THE AINU TREASURE WAS IN FACT ARTIFACTS LEFT BEHIND BY ALIENS


I'M SURE THE ALIENS LEFT THESE HERE SO THAT EVENTUALLY THE DESCENDANTS OF THE AINU WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF THEM
THIS IS AN AMAZING DISCOVERY!!
TO WARD OFF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT MISUSE IT THEY PUT IN A VARIETY OF SAFEGUARDS
THEY PROBABLY LEFT OTHER THINGS SUCH AS ROBOTS TO PROTECT THIS PLACE AS WELL
JUST FOR IT TO BE HOGGED BY A COUPLE PEOPLE
BAH! OF COURSE NOT!! DON'T BE SO SELFISH! THIS BELONGS TO ALL OF HUMANITY THE AINU DIDN'T PROTECT IT FOR THIS LONG...
DOES THIS MEAN THAT ALL OF THIS STUFF BELONGS TO US NOW?
ACTUALLY COME TO THINK OF IT... THAT EXPLOSION WITH THE ROBOT PIECES AROUND IT WAS PROBABLY THE WRECKAGE OF ONE OF THOSE ROBOTS

HOWEVER...
I WANT TO ANNOUNCE THIS DISCOVERY IMMEDIATELY TO THE ENTIRE WORLD...
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO THAT TIGER IF HE HADN'T FOUND US, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED!!
GASP
IT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS TO ANNOUNCE IT RIGHT AWAY IN THE WORLD THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE LIKE ZOGEL, WHO MIGHT TRY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT... SO IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT A LITTLE BIT AND PREPARE
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?!
WHAT?
KOTAN, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU UNTIL JUST NOW, DAN IS...
WHAT?! THIS IS HORRIBLE!!


DAN!!


DAN!!

OH NO!!

WHAT HORRIBLE INJURIES YOU'RE RIDDLED WITH HOLES! DO THEY HAVE NO SHAME?!

HOLD ON, DAN!! IT'S ME!! KOTAN!!

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?! WE CAN'T JUST LET HIM DIE LIKE THIS!! HE HAS HELPED ME SO MUCH!
HMM. HIS HEART'S ON ITS LAST LEGS IT SEEMS THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM NOW...
DAN WAS AMAZING HE SUFFERED ALL OF THESE INJURIES AND STILL MANAGED TO DELIVER THAT LETTER TO ME
HERE
KOTAN, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD DO IT I THINK DAN WOULD WANT YOU TO, TOO.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM NOW THAT WOULD SAVE HIS LIFE. THE ONLY THING THAT WE CAN DO FOR HIM IS GIVE HIM A QUICK, PAINLESS DEATH. HE HAS ALREADY SUFFERED SO MUCH.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL TELL THE WORLD ABOUT WHAT A BRAVE TIGER HE WAS. I'LL TELL EVERYONE WHAT HE DID FOR US.
IT MIGHT SEEM CRUEL, BUT IT REALLY IS FOR THE BEST. YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO BE IN PAIN, DO YOU?
I... CAN'T DO IT. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO IT!
I KNOW, KOTAN. DO IT.
DAN...
BANG
BANG
I KNEW THAT SOMEDAY YOU'D BE THE ONE TO END MY LIFE.
BUT WE WERE BEST FRIENDS WEREN'T WE? WE'LL STILL BE FRIENDS, RIGHT? KOTAN?
YES... WE WILL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS, DAN.

BRAVE DAN - THE END

BRAVE DAN
1962: JULY 15 - DECEMBER 23
THE WEEKLY SHONEN SUNDAY — SERIAL NOVEL

AFTERWARD

I'VE DONE A LOT OF DIFFERENT STORIES FEATURING ANIMALS AS MAIN CHARACTERS. STARTING WITH A LION IN THE "JUNGLE EMPEROR," I'VE ALSO HAD DOGS, CATS, MICE, RABBITS, FOXES, RACCOON DOGS, ELEPHANTS, DOLPHINS, BIRDS, FISH, AND EVEN INSECTS AS MAIN CHARACTERS IN MY WORKS. TIGER'S HAVE BEEN MAIN CHARACTERS IN THIS COMIC, "TIGER LAND," AND THE ANIMATED "PURURU KUN."

I THINK TIGERS ARE PROBABLY THE STRONGEST LIVING CREATURES ON LAND. I'VE HEARD A RUMOR THAT AT ONE POINT IN TIME THERE WERE MANY LIONS IN INDIA, BUT THEY WERE DRIVEN OUT AND KILLED BY TIGERS. I LOVE TIGERS, BUT SINCE THEY'RE DIFFICULT TO DRAW, THEY DO NOT GET PUT INTO MANY COMICS AND CARTOONS.

"BRAVE DAN" ALSO FEATURES AN AINU AS ONE OF THE OTHER MAIN CHARACTERS. I HAVE LONG ADMIRED AND ROMANTICIZED THE AINU PEOPLE AS A BRAVE AND RESOLUTE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH. HOWEVER, AFTER I FOUND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR MUTUAL HISTORY, I HAD TO REFLECT ON MY FEELINGS. I PARTICULARLY GREW FOUND OF AINU LEGENDS AND STORIES STARTING WITH "KORPOKKUR."

"BRAVE DAN" FOLLOWED "WHITE PILOT" IN THE "SHOUNEN SUNDAY," BUT FROM THE BEGINNING OF ITS SERIALIZATION IT MET WITH DISAPPROVAL FROM THE READERS. I WAS ALSO LATE FOR MANY OF ITS DEADLINES. AFTER THIS WORK, I WAS PUT OUT TO DRY FOR A WHILE.

THROUGHOUT MY CAREER I'VE HAD MANY UPS AND DOWNS. SOMETIMES I WOULD BE VERY POPULAR, OTHER TIMES I WOULD BE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PILE AGAIN. AFTER "BRAVE DAN" FINISHED PUBLISHING, IT WAS PROBABLY THE LOWEST POINT THROUGHOUT MY CAREER. IT WAS A TIME WHEN I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. PART OF THE REASON FOR THIS WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THIS COMIC WAS RADICAL FOR THE TIME.

DEAR READERS,

IN TEZUKA OSAMU'S WORKS, THERE ARE MANY PORTRAYALS OF FOREIGNERS. RECENTLY, SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH FOREIGNERS WERE PRESENTED WITHIN HIS COMICS HAS BEEN CRITICIZED AS BEING RACIST. WE'D LIKE TO STATE THAT THE AUTHOR IN CREATING THIS WORK NEVER HAD ANY SUCH INTENTION. THE AUTHOR BELIEVES THAT ALL FORMS OF HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION ARE BAD, AND HOPES THAT YOU WILL FIND IN ALL HIS WORKS A LOVE FOR PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. WE THINK THAT RACISM IN ANY FORM IS BAD, AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCOURAGE IT AS BEST WE CAN. AGAIN, ANY REPRESENTATIONS THAT MAY SEEM RACIST WERE NEVER INTENDED AS SUCH. AS WE ENTER INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, WE'D LIKE TO PRESERVE THIS PIECE OF WORK IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. THE AUTHOR HAS ALREADY PASSED AWAY AND SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET HIS FEEDBACK ON IT. THIS ENTIRE PIECE OF LITERATURE IS EMBEDDED WITH TEZUKA OSAMU'S FEELINGS AND MESSAGE, SO WE DO NOT WANT TO ALTER ANYTHING. THIS WORK IS CONSIDERED A CULTURAL ARTIFACT AND WE'D LIKE TO KEEP IT IN ITS UNALTERED STATE, SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY LEARN SOMETHING FROM IT. AGAIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT ALL OF US HERE AT TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS ARE AGAINST RACISM IN ALL ITS FORMS, AND HOPE FOR THE END OF DISCRIMINATION.

WE HOPE THAT YOU THE READERS, THROUGH EXPOSURE TO OUR WORK, CAN BECOME MORE AWARE OF DISCRIMINATION AND ALL THE FORMS IT CAN TAKE, AND THAT THROUGH CONTINUED LEARNING AND AWARENESS WE CAN ALL LESSEN ITS IMPACT.

TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS

TEZUKA OSAMU

TEZUKA OSAMU WAS BORN ON MARCH 11, 1926 IN TOYONAKA, OSAKA, JAPAN. HE WAS RAISED IN TAKARAZUKA, YOKOHAMA HE GRADUATED WITH A MEDICAL DEGREE FROM OSAKA UNIVERSITY AND WAS QUALIFIED TO BE A DOCTOR. INSTEAD HOWEVER, HE DEVOTED HIMSELF TO COMICS AND BECAME ONE OF JAPAN'S MOST FAMOUS AND LOVED MANGA AND ANIME CREATORS. HIS FIRST WORK, "DIARY OF MA-CHAN" WAS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY OF 1946 IN THE "SHOUKUMIN NEWSPAPER" NOW KNOWN AS THE "MAINICHI SHOUGAKUSEI NEWSPAPER." HIS MOST FAMOUS WORKS INCLUDE "ASTRO BOY" "PHOENIX" "JUNGLE EMPEROR," "BLACK JACK," "PRINCESS KNIGHT," "THE THREE-EYED ONE" "BUDDHA," AND "MESSAGE TO ADOLF." HE HAS MANY OTHER WORKS PUBLISHED AS WELL. HE DIED FEBRUARY 9 1989 DUE TO STOMACH CANCER. IN FEBRUARY OF 1994, TAKARAZUKA CITY OPENED THE OSAMU TEZUKA MANGA MUSEUM

電子書籍 勇者ダン

手塚治虫マガジン倶楽部版

著　者：手塚治虫

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著作権法上での例外を除き、禁じられています。

BRAVE DAN

Kotan is a child of Ainu descent who finds himself suddenly in the care of a man-eating tiger named Dan. Dan has vowed to Kotan that he will help him find his lost parents. Their search is cut short when the odd companions are approached by an old Ainu man named Upopo. When Upopo spins tall tales of how Kotan is the chosen one who will locate and inherit the Ainu's hidden treasure, Kotan and Dan find themselves battling criminals, murderers, cheats, liars, and all-around closed-minded folk. As if there weren't enough things threatening their lives, a crow warns Dan that Kotan is will be the one to end Dan's life. Can Brave Dan and his best friend Kotan survive the trials that await them? What is the Ainu peoples' hidden treasure, and is it really worth it? Was the crow telling the truth, or was it just malarkey?

ACTION | DRAMA | SHONEN

Teens 13+

Native Manga READ RIGHT TO LEFT

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